

1744 Long Lane > [Federal St. 1788]



1809 Federal Street



1859-61 ASC



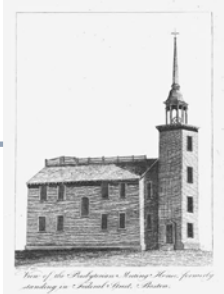
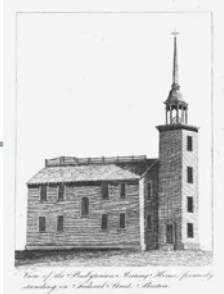
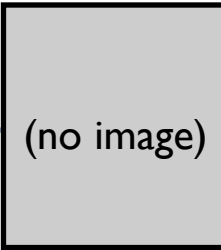
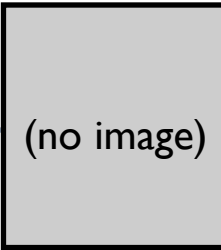



# Arlington Street Church History

Part 2: The Nineteenth Century

*January 2014, 2017, March 2021*

*Holly Hendricks*

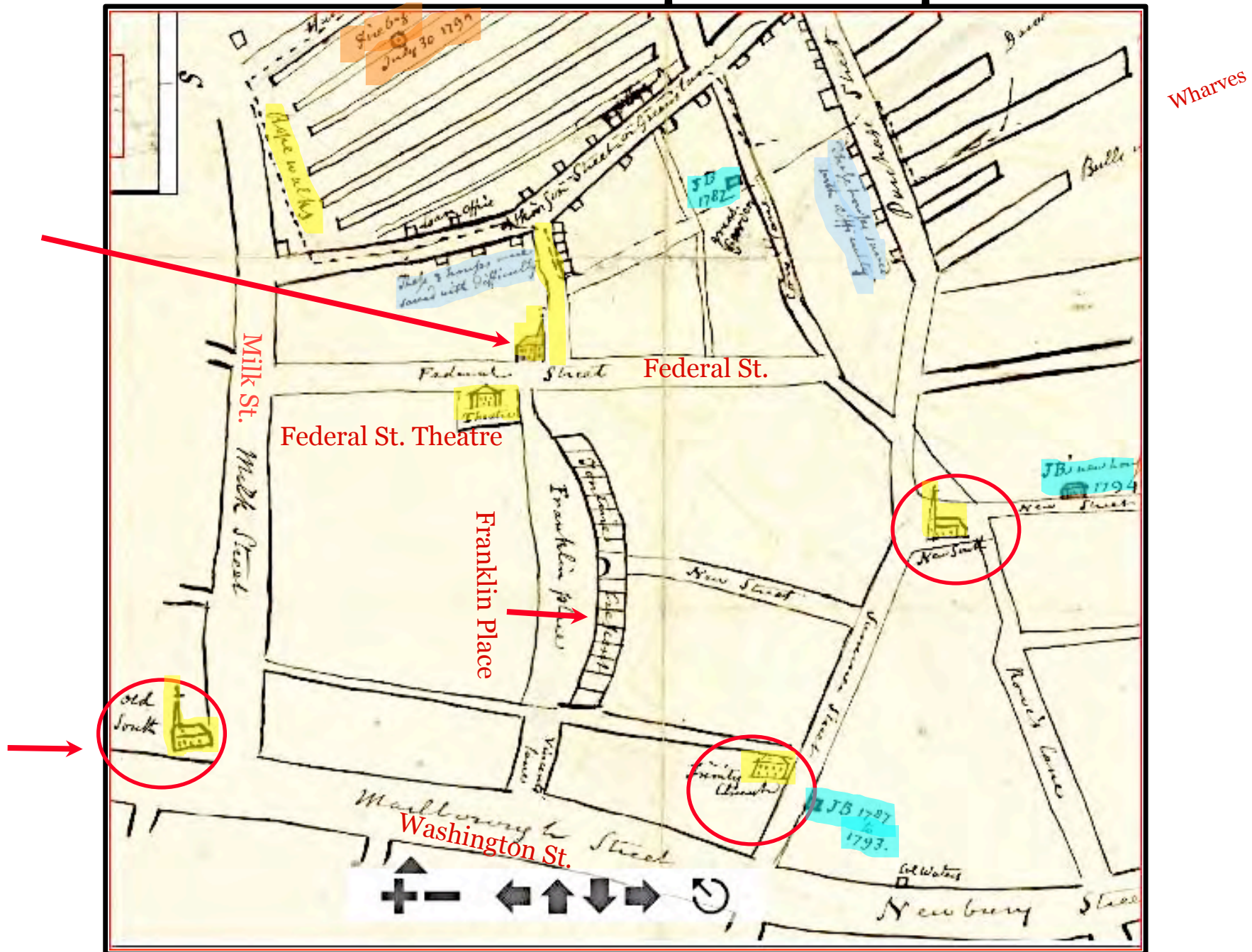
# Review of Part 1 – 18<sup>th</sup> c.

1718-1729	Scots-Irish immigrate		
172(7)-1730	Long Lane Church organized in a Boston barn with Rev. John Moorhead (d. 1773, Presbyterian)		
1744	The second meetinghouse		
1775-1783	American Revolution		
1783-1786	Ministry of Rev. Robert Annan (resigned 1786, Presbyterian)		
1788	Massachusetts Constitutional Convention - name of street changed to Federal Street		
1786-1798	Ministry of Rev. Jeremy Belknap (d. 1798. Congregational <i>polity</i> adopted)		
1799-1802	Ministry of Rev. John Snelling Popkin (resigned 1802, Congregational <i>polity</i> )		

# Key Questions

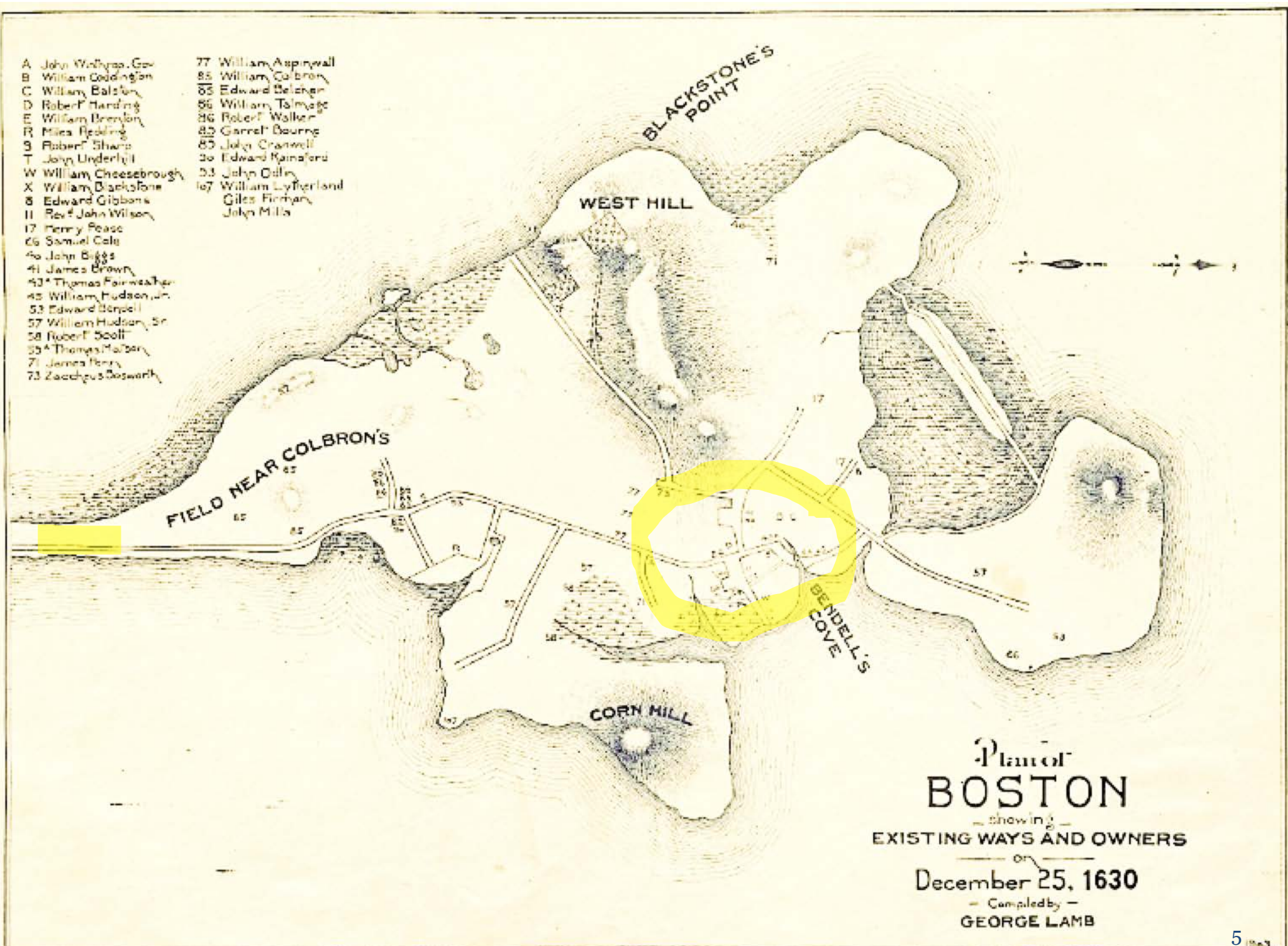
- What was happening in Boston during the 19th century?
- Why did Rev. William Ellery Channing decline larger, more affluent congregations to serve FSC from 1803-1842?
- How is our congregation associated with establishing Unitarianism in America?
- During the antislavery controversy, who were the "lords of the loom" accused of alliances with "lords of the lash"?
- Why did the congregation move from its historic Federal Street location to Arlington Street?
- What was the "pew controversy"? What other social justice projects were undertaken?

# Rev. Belknap's Map - 1794





- |     |                      |     |                    |
|-----|----------------------|-----|--------------------|
| A   | John Withyng, Gov    | 77  | William Aspinwall  |
| B   | William Coddington   | 85  | William Colbron    |
| C   | William Baldwin      | 88  | Edward Belcher     |
| D   | Robert Harding       | 86  | William Talmage    |
| E   | William Brewster     | 86  | Robert Walker      |
| R   | Mica Redding         | 82  | Garnett Bourne     |
| 9   | Robert Shaw          | 85  | John Cranwell      |
| T   | John Underhill       | 30  | Edward Knapford    |
| W   | William Cheesebrough | 53  | John Olin          |
| X   | William Blackstone   | 167 | William Lytherland |
| 8   | Edward Gibbons       |     | Giles Firman       |
| 11  | Rev. John Wilson     |     | John Mills         |
| 17  | Ferry Pease          |     |                    |
| 26  | Samuel Cole          |     |                    |
| 40  | John Biggs           |     |                    |
| 41  | James Brown          |     |                    |
| 43* | Thomas Fairweather   |     |                    |
| 45  | William Hudson, Jun  |     |                    |
| 53  | Edward Bencoll       |     |                    |
| 57  | William Hudson, Sr   |     |                    |
| 58  | Robert Scott         |     |                    |
| 55* | Thomas Malbon        |     |                    |
| 71  | James Perry          |     |                    |
| 73  | Zaccharyus Goswark   |     |                    |



Plan of  
**BOSTON**  
 — showing —  
 EXISTING WAYS AND OWNERS  
 — or —  
 December 25, 1630  
 — Compiled by —  
 GEORGE LAMB

# 19th Century Landmaking

## The History of Land Fill in Boston

### 1830-Beacon Hill Carted Off

- Mill Pond adds 10% more land to Boston Proper
- New State House occupies top of reduced Beacon Hill.
- Pemberton Square / Scollay Square created.

1630

1830

1845

1865

1890





# The History of Land Fill in Boston

## 1845-South Cove and Great Cove

- Great Cove created much of Boston's Financial District.
- South Cove is today the China Town & N.E. Medical Center
- Combined, they added 60% to Boston's original land area.

1630

1830

1845

1865

1890



# The History of Land Fill in Boston

## 1865- West Cove

- Added land along Charles St. and West End
- Created ropeworks on west end of Commons
- Expanded Boston's original land mass by 40%.

1630

1830

1845

1865

1890





# The History of Land Fill in Boston

## 1890- Back Bay Filled

- The most convenient fill from Boston's hills was already used.
- Fill was transported from Needham Heights. [<more info.>](#)
- Added more land than the the entire Shawmut peninsula.

1630

1830

1845

1865

1890



# Charles River

**BACK BAY**  
1857-1894  
570 Acres

Original:  
296  
acres

**West Cove**  
1803-63

**Mill  
Pond**  
1804-29

Original:  
487  
acres

**South Cove**  
1806-1843  
186 acres

**Great  
Cove**  
112 acres

**South Bay**

SOUTH BOSTON

**1630: 783 acres**

**1910: 1904 acres**



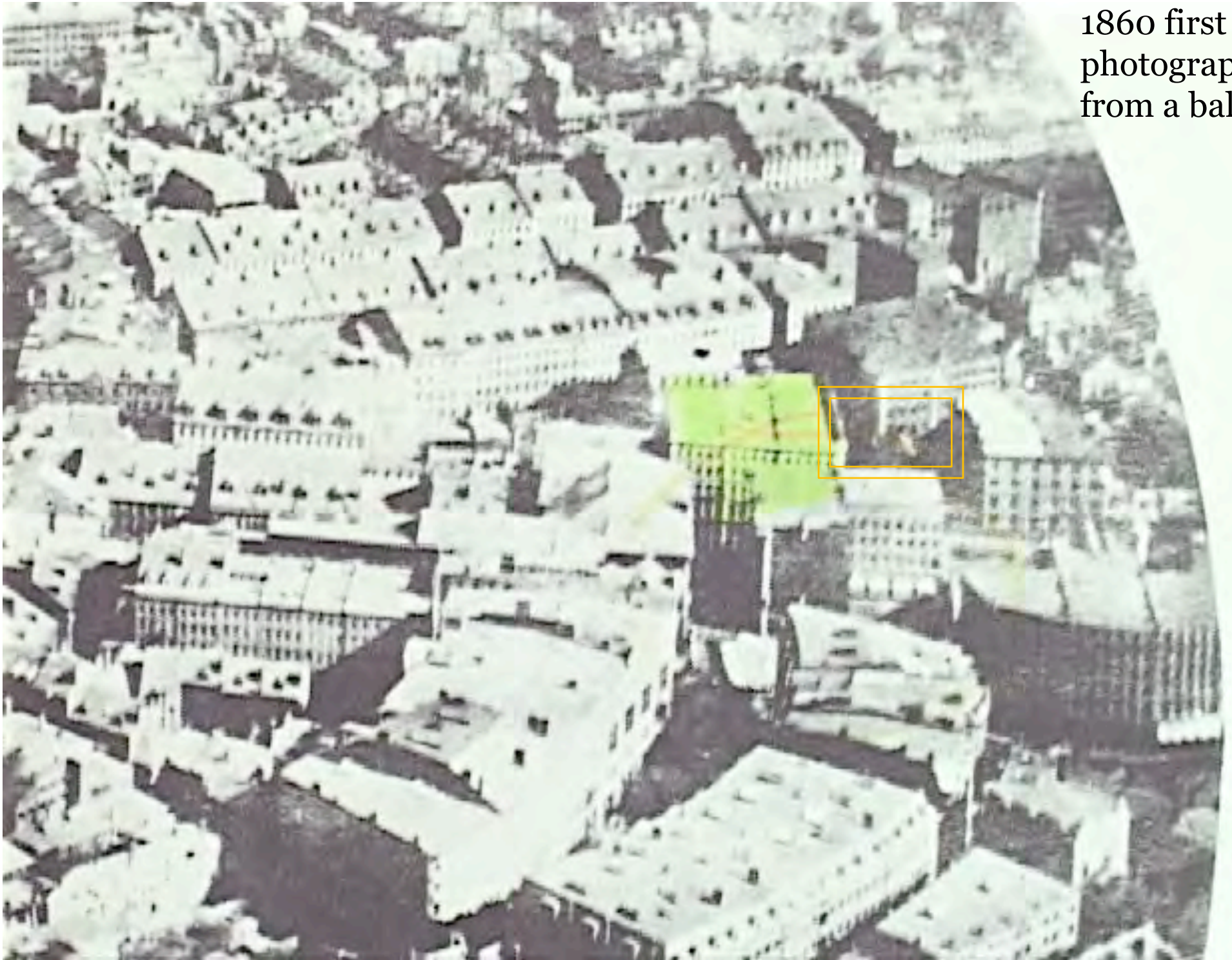




# 19<sup>th</sup> c. and now







1860 first  
photograph  
from a balloon





Looking up Federal Street  
from High Street 1867



# BOSTON 1872 FIRE

## MOVEMENT OF THE FIRE

Copyright © 2003 Drexler, LLC

6AM-5PM Sun

4AM - 6AM

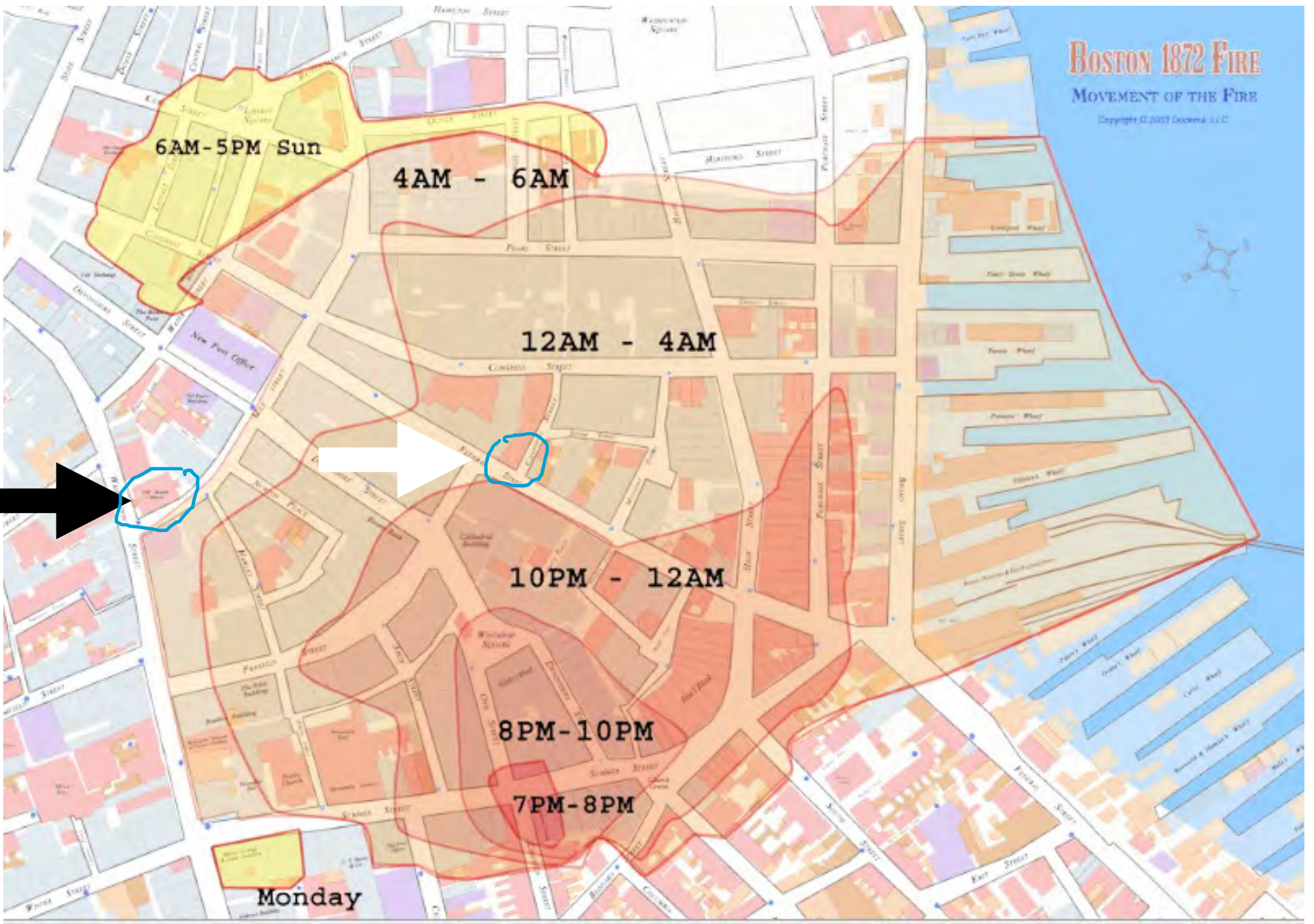
12AM - 4AM

10PM - 12AM

8PM-10PM

7PM-8PM

Monday





BOSTON FIRE, Nov. 9th and 10th, 1872.



Charles Faber & Co., New Bedford, Mass.

37. Federal Street looking east.

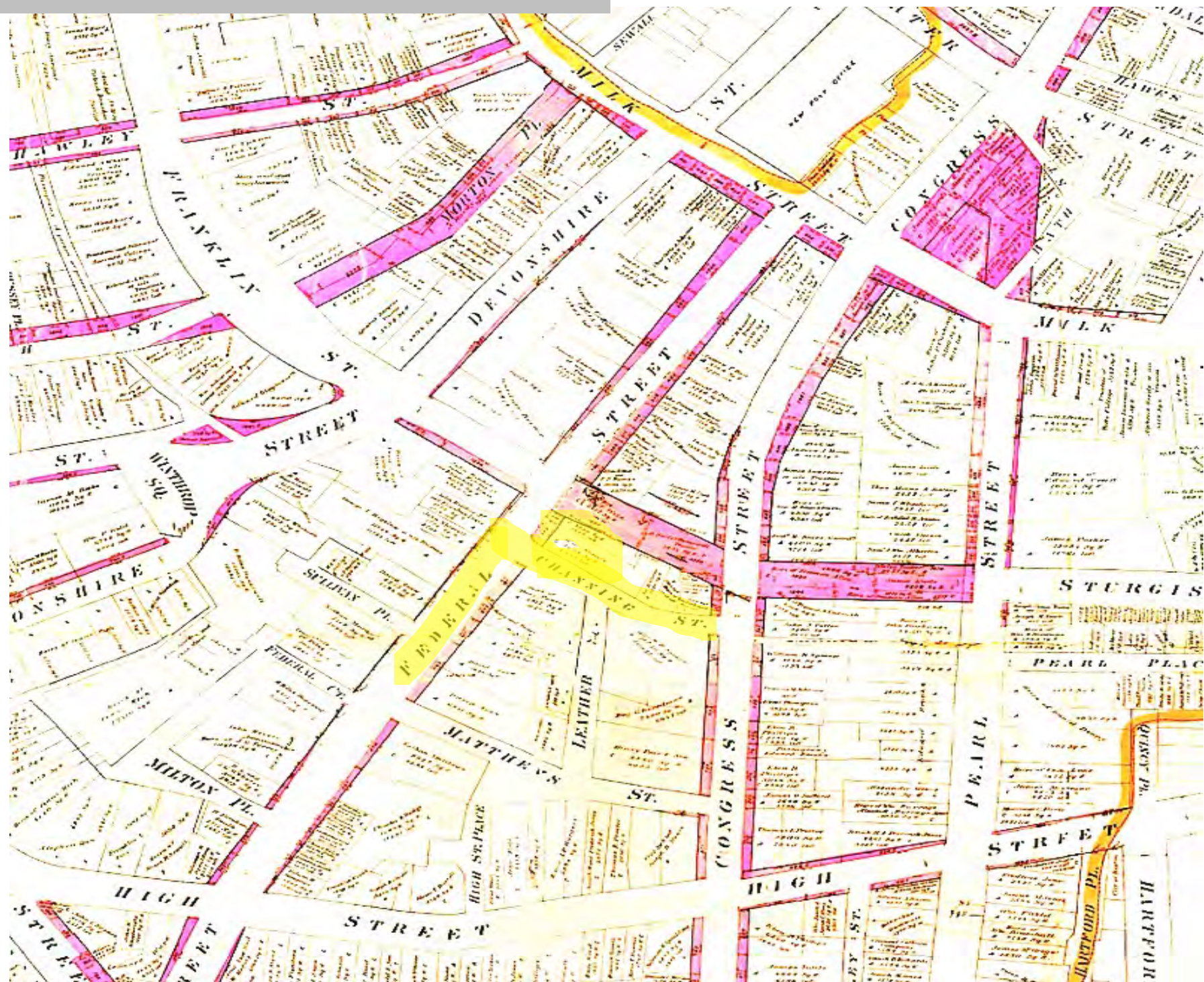




Image credit: Boston Public Library



# 874 Boston Street Atlas

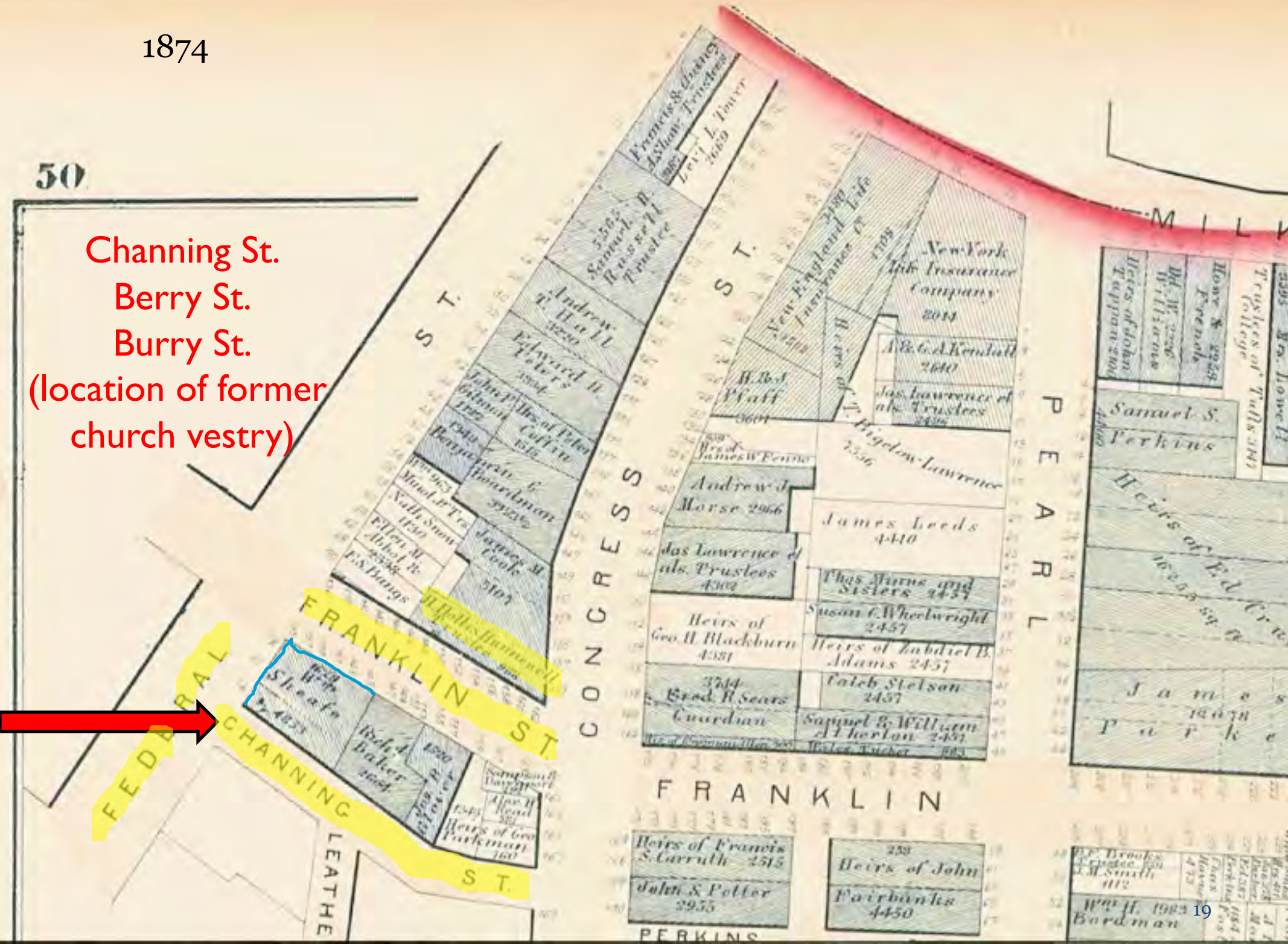




1874

50

Channing St.  
Berry St.  
Burry St.  
(location of former  
church vestry)









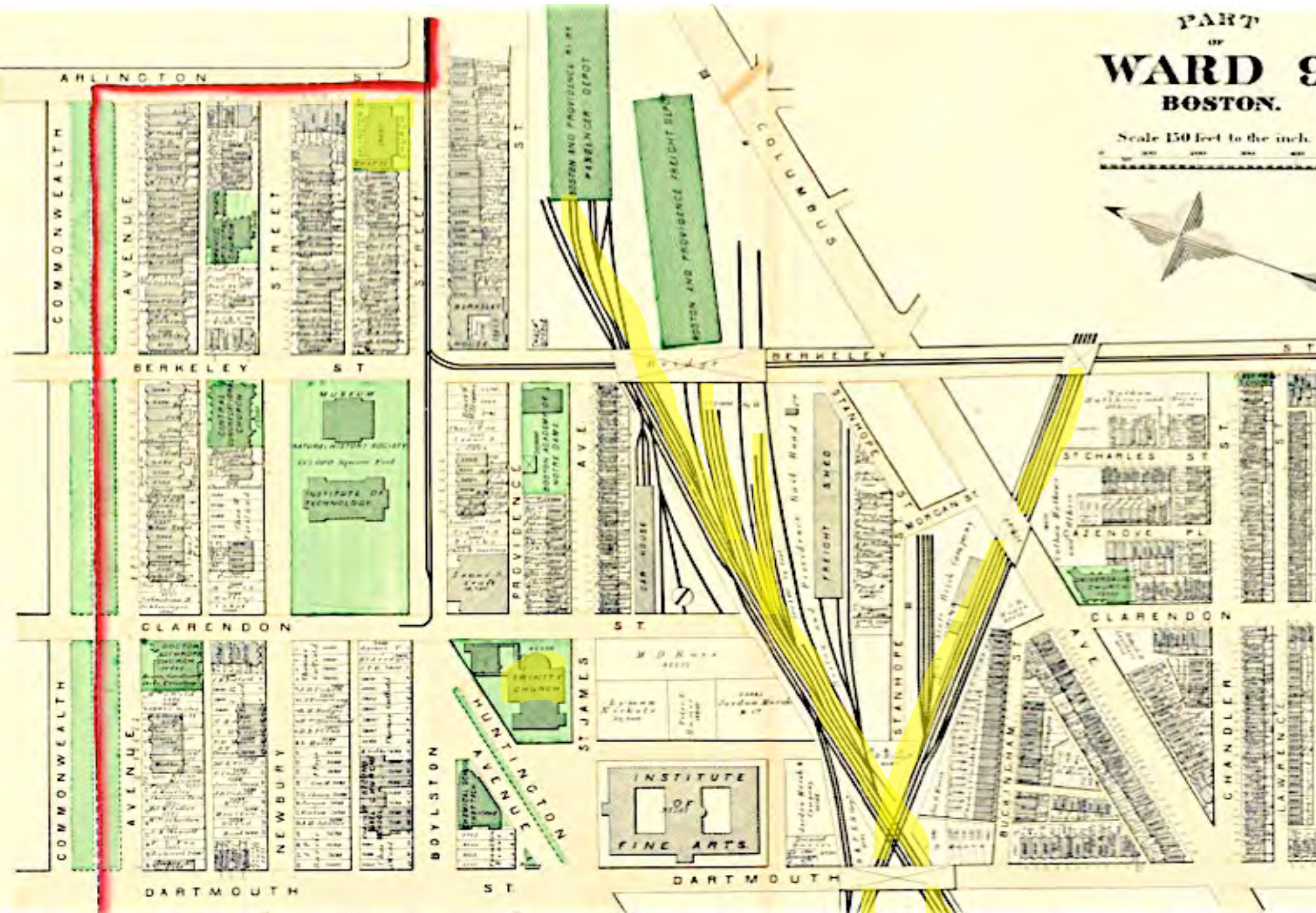




1874

PART  
OF  
**WARD 9**  
BOSTON.

Scale 150 feet to the inch.





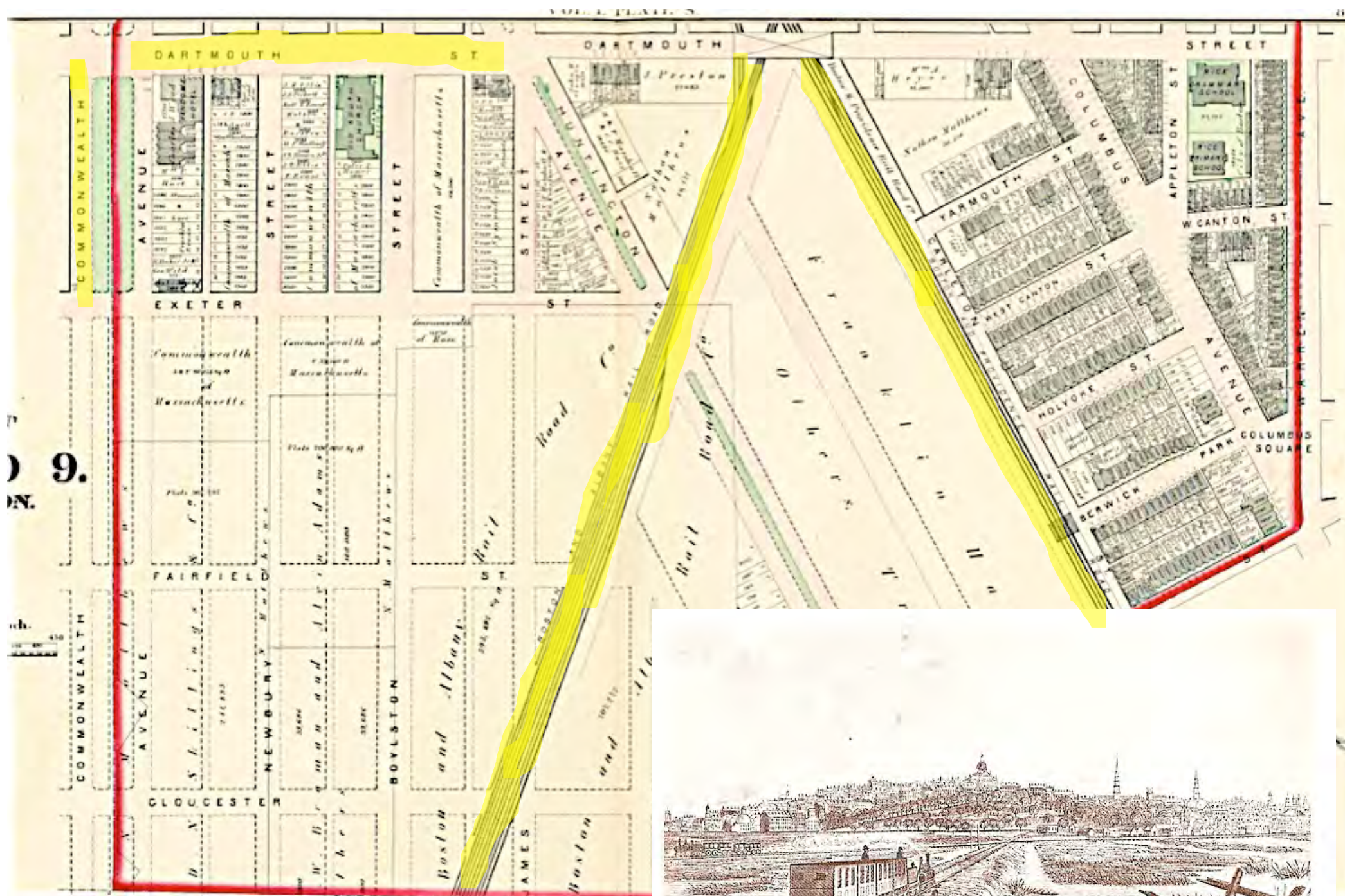


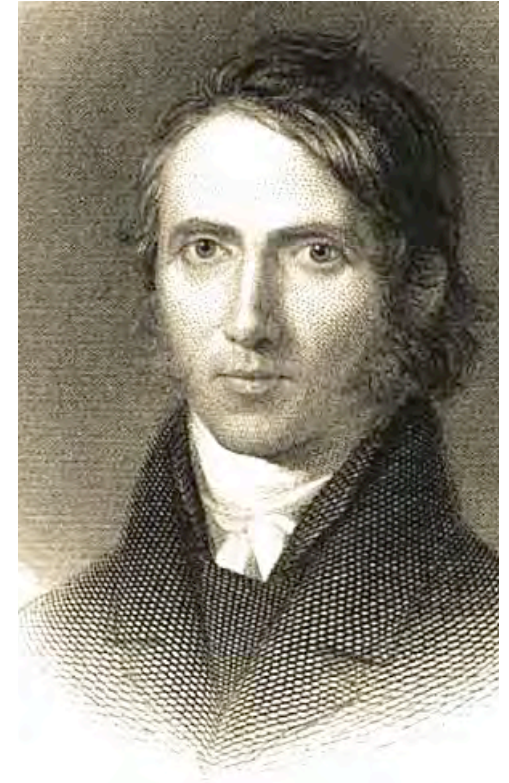
Fig. 53. Trains crossing the Back Bay in 1844



Why did Rev. William Ellery Channing decline larger, more affluent congregations to serve us from 1803-1842?

# William Ellery Channing

- Born 1780 in Newport, RI
- Prepared for ministry at Harvard College
- Served as tutor to slaveholding family in Virginia before receiving degree
- Ascetic practices affected health
- Accepted 1803 call to Federal Street





Channing's Clerical Robe  
(at Mass. Historical Society)





# Channing – Ministry

- Powerful preaching
- New meetinghouse 1809
- Marriage to Ruth Gibbs - 4 children
- Liberal/orthodox pamphlet wars of 18-teens
- 1819 “Unitarian Christianity” (Baltimore Sermon)
- 1835 Came out against slavery
- 1842 Died at age 62





## Emerson on Channing from *Emerson at Home and Abroad*

art galleries." Of Dr. Channing he spoke with warm admiration. "The charm of his preaching is not to be discovered by reading his sermons; whenever he spoke it seemed to an occasion; the heart of his audience rose to meet him; here was something sufficient; the multitude found it good to be there, and went away fed, satisfied."

his mother's room to pursue her studies. The school was near the **Federal Street Church** (Channing's), and Emerson witnessed the most striking example of the power possible to the American pulpit. It was in the year of Emerson's graduation (1821) that the new impulse given

### *STUDENT AND TEACHER.*

45

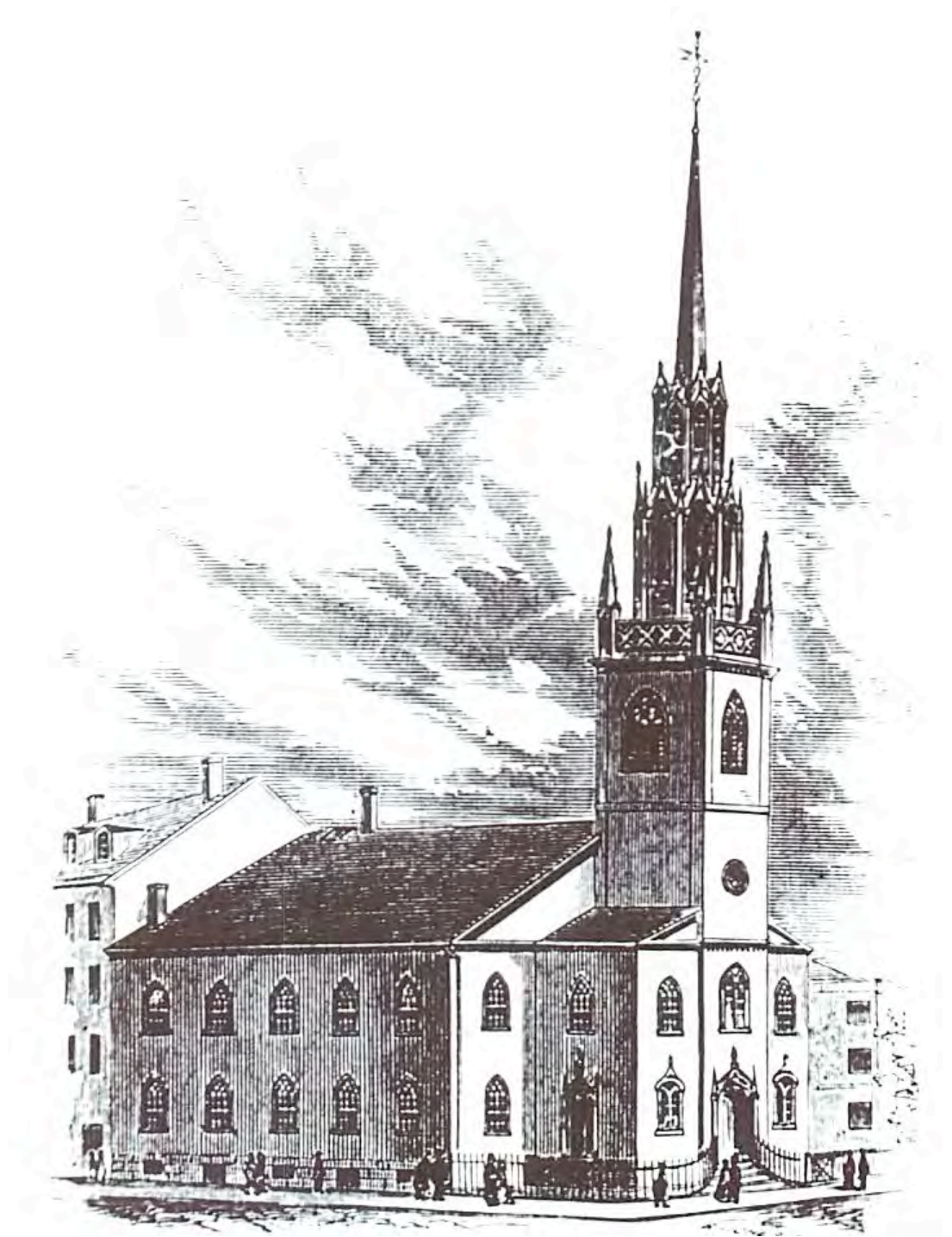
to the liberal tendencies of America began to be generally felt. In that year Channing gave his Duddleian lecture at Cambridge on the "Evidences of Christianity." Every word spoken in that **Boston church** was now heard throughout the country. He saw Channing to be a "necessary" person, as he said long afterwards, one affirming the verdict of the human faculties, and passing solemn sentence upon guilty dogmas by simply stating their offence against the moral sentiment.



## Federal Street Church 1809-1859

Designed by Charles Bulfinch in the Gothic Style

Replaced 1744 meetinghouse

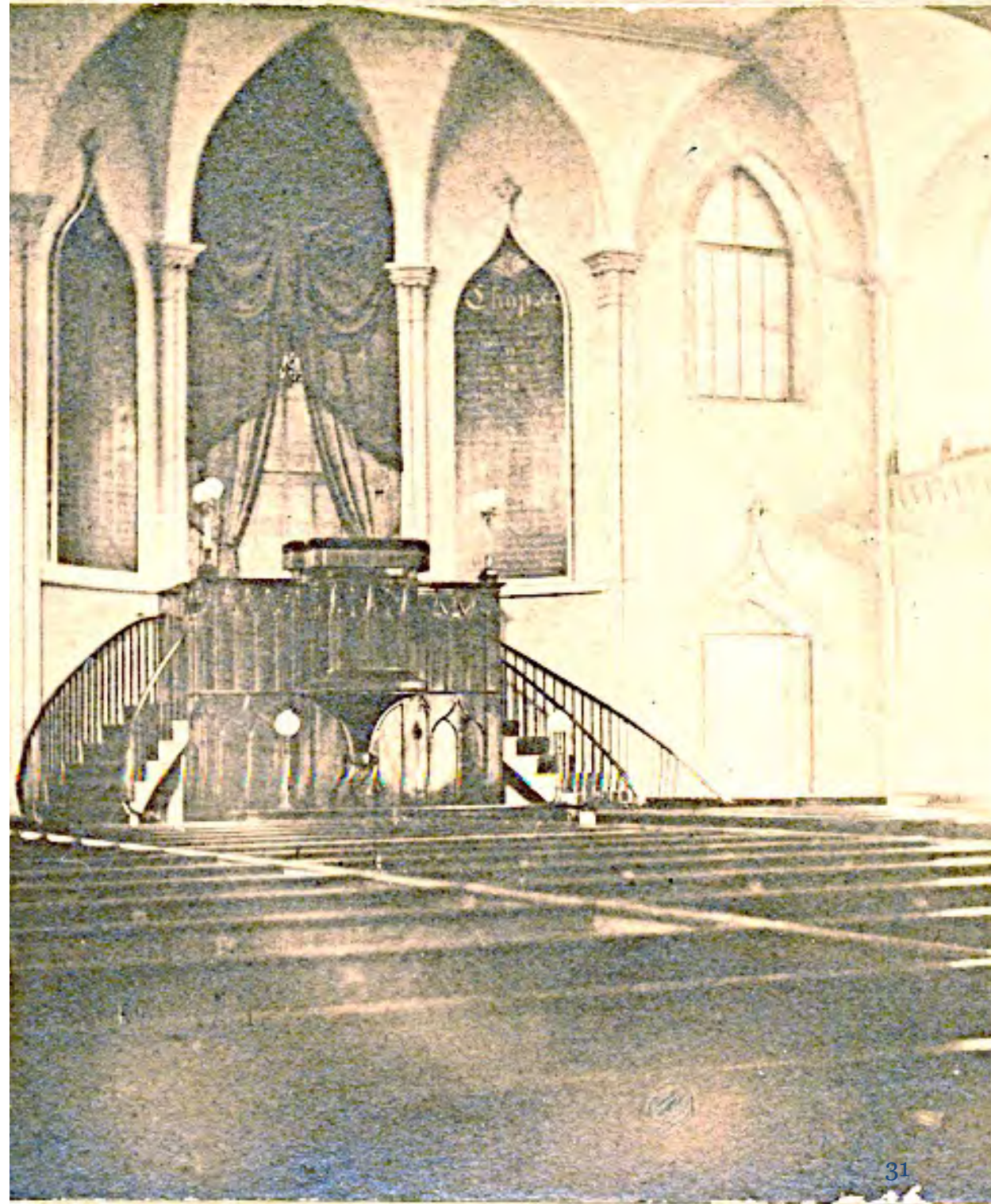








Federal Street Church 1809-1859  
Charles Bulfinch in the Gothic style







Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Franklin Street ca. 1855. The church steeple is of Bulfinch Federal Street Church. These buildings were all replaced with commercial buildings by 1

Related topics: [[Franklin Street](#)] [[Residential Boston ca. 1850](#)]

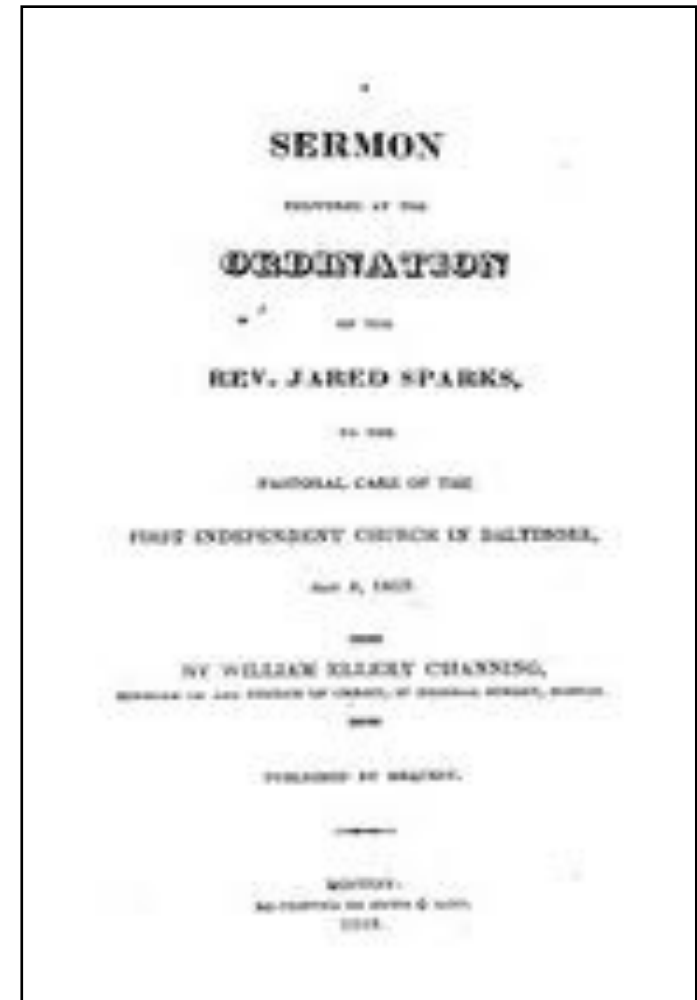


*courtesy of Boston Public Library*



# Baltimore Sermon 1819

- Ordination of Jared Sparks in Baltimore
- “Unitarian Christianity”
- Defined American Unitarianism in relation to the orthodox Christian position







How is our congregation associated  
with establishing Unitarianism in  
America?

# Ezra Stiles Gannett



- Born 1801
- Attended Harvard College
- Channing's assistant at FSC from 1823
- His skills complemented Channing's
- Helped organize AUA in FSC vestry in 1825
- Led move to Back Bay (ASC) in 1850s
- Served after Channing's death in 1842 until his death in 1871



# Why an American Unitarian Association?

“Liberal religion” in Boston

18<sup>th</sup> c. King’s Chapel, some Congregationalists

(KC revised liturgy in 1785 to eliminate the doctrine of the Trinity)

1805 “Woods & Ware Controversy” at Harvard

(Would Harvard Divinity School become liberal or orthodox?)

18-teens Liberal and orthodox pamphlet war

1819 Channing preaches “Unitarian Christianity”

(Proudly claiming the Unitarian label for the liberals)

1825 Berry Street Ministerial Conference > AUA

(Evangelism to the west; sharing resources)

....

....1961 Merger with Universalists to become Unitarian  
Universalist Association

During the antislavery controversy, who were the “lords of the loom” accused of alliances with “lords of the lash”?



# Antislavery Controversy

- Significant US conflict 1830s-50s
- Unitarians divided:
  - Immediate emancipation
  - Gradual emancipation, colonization
  - A sectional issue, states' rights, property and business rights
  - Fear of losing Union, Constitution, the country
- Unitarian women emerge as leaders

# Women Rise to Leadership

- Margaret Fuller 1810-1850
- Elizabeth Palmer Peabody 1804-1894
- Lydia Maria Child 1802-1880
- Maria Weston Chapman 1806-1885



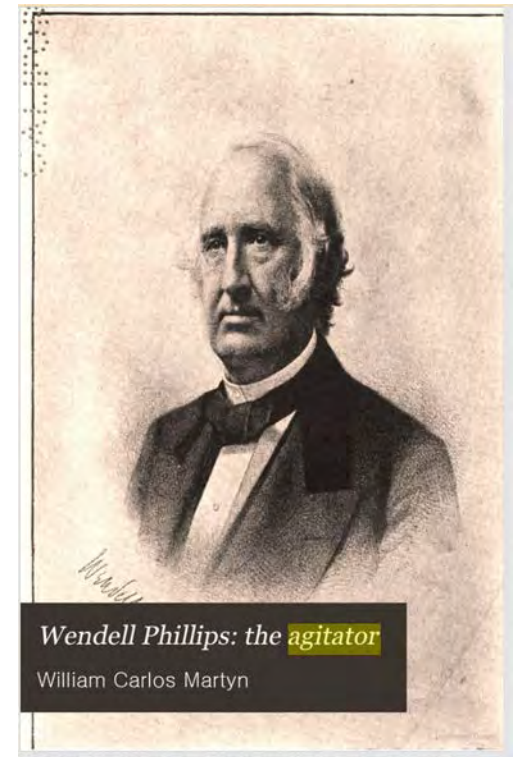


attorney-general, James Trecothick Austin." He then proceeded to call the roll of the Boston churches :

"Where is Hubbard Winslow? Teaching that a minister's rule of duty, as to what he should teach and preach, is 'what the brotherhood will allow and protect.' Where is the pulpit of the 'Old South'? Sustaining slavery as a Bible Institution. Where is Park Street? Refusing to receive within its walls, for funeral services, the body of the only martyr the Orthodox Congregationalists of New England have had, Charles T. Torrey,<sup>1</sup> and of whom they were not worthy. Where is Essex Street church? Teaching that there are occasions when the Golden Rule is to be set aside. Where is Federal Street church? Teaching that silence is the duty of the North with respect to slavery, and closing its doors to the funeral eulogy of the Abolitionist Follen, the bosom friend of the only man who will make Federal Street pulpit to be remembered, William Ellery Channing. And I might ask, where are the New South and Brattle Street? but *they are not!*"

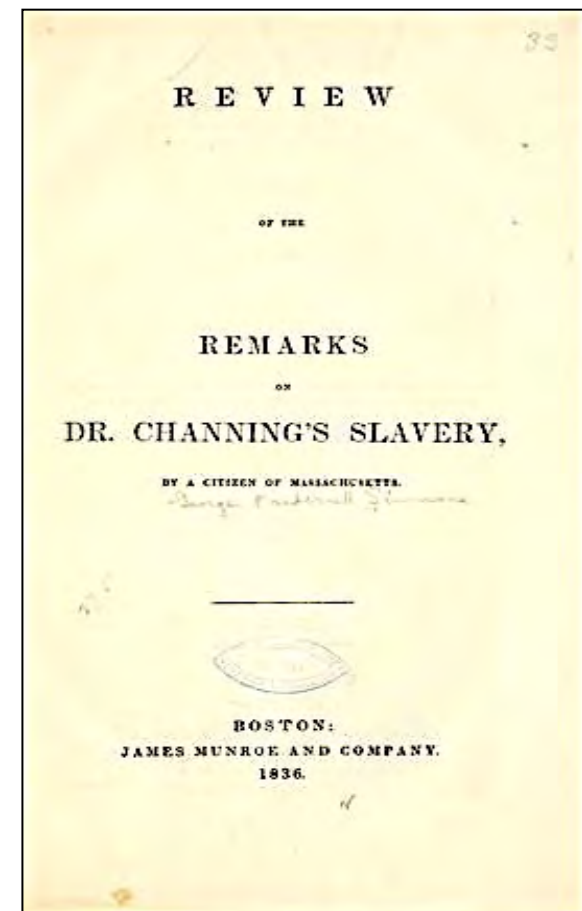
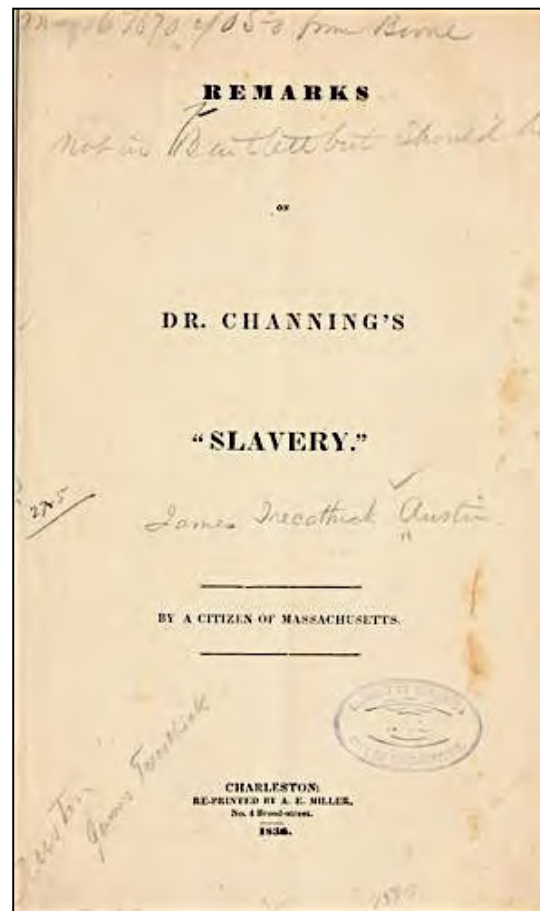
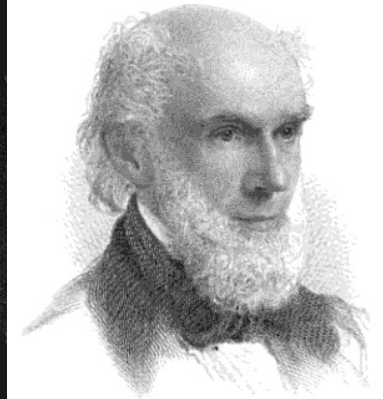
This speech made a sensation. It stabbed the ecclesiastical traitors to liberty with interrogation marks—no wonder they gasped out their rage.

January 1849 speech



Wendell Phillips: The Agitator  
By William Carlos Martyn  
p. 220

“The first question to be proposed by a rational being is not what is profitable, but what is Right.” Channing came slowly to this view, not because of doubts about its moral imperative, but because he feared it would fracture his congregation and devastate its financial base, the merchants and shippers who profited from southern slavery. And it did.





Why did the congregation move from its historic Federal Street location to Arlington Street?

Federal Street 1858



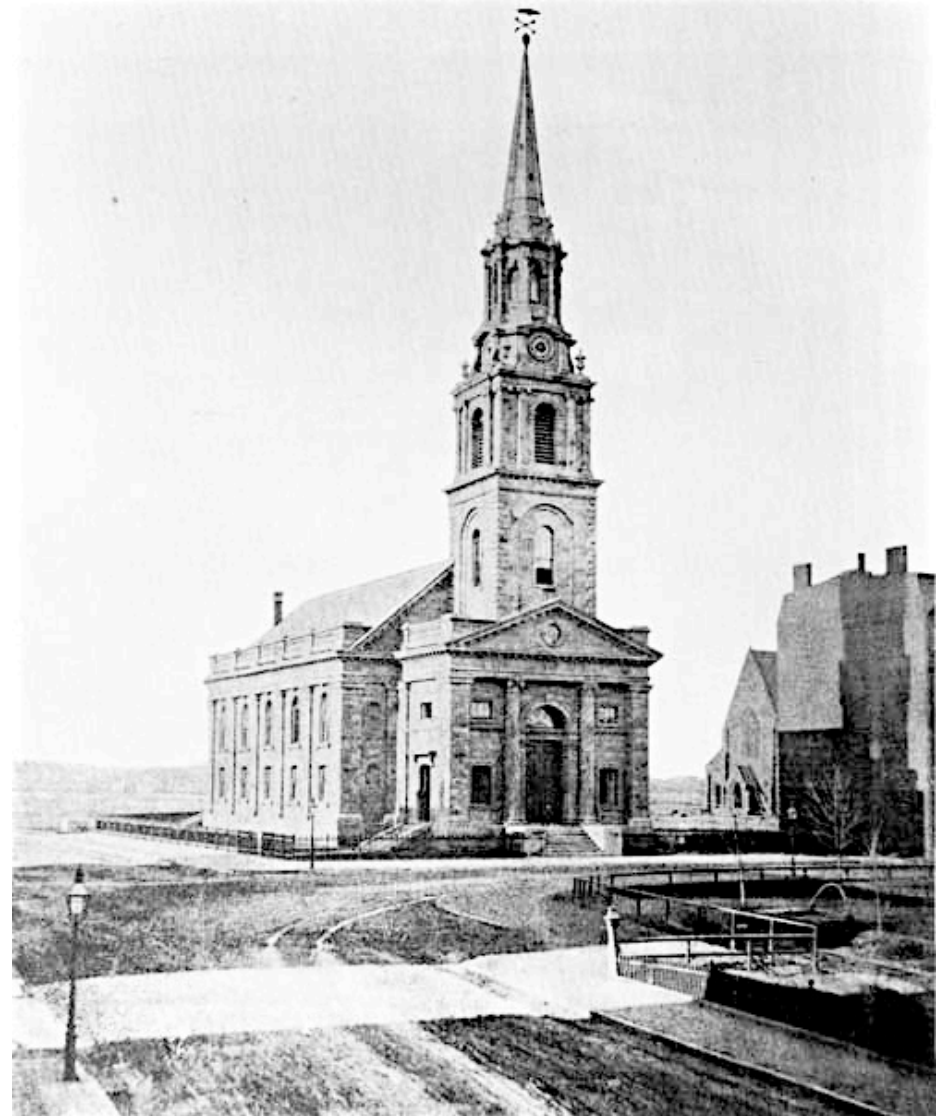


# New Land in Back Bay



# Building ASC

- Building began September 1859 (999 pilings)
- Cornerstone laid May 1860
- Completed September 11, 1861
- Cost: \$106,000
- Dedicated December 11, 1861
- First public building in the Back Bay
- Back Bay streets filled east to west 1858- c. 1890



1862

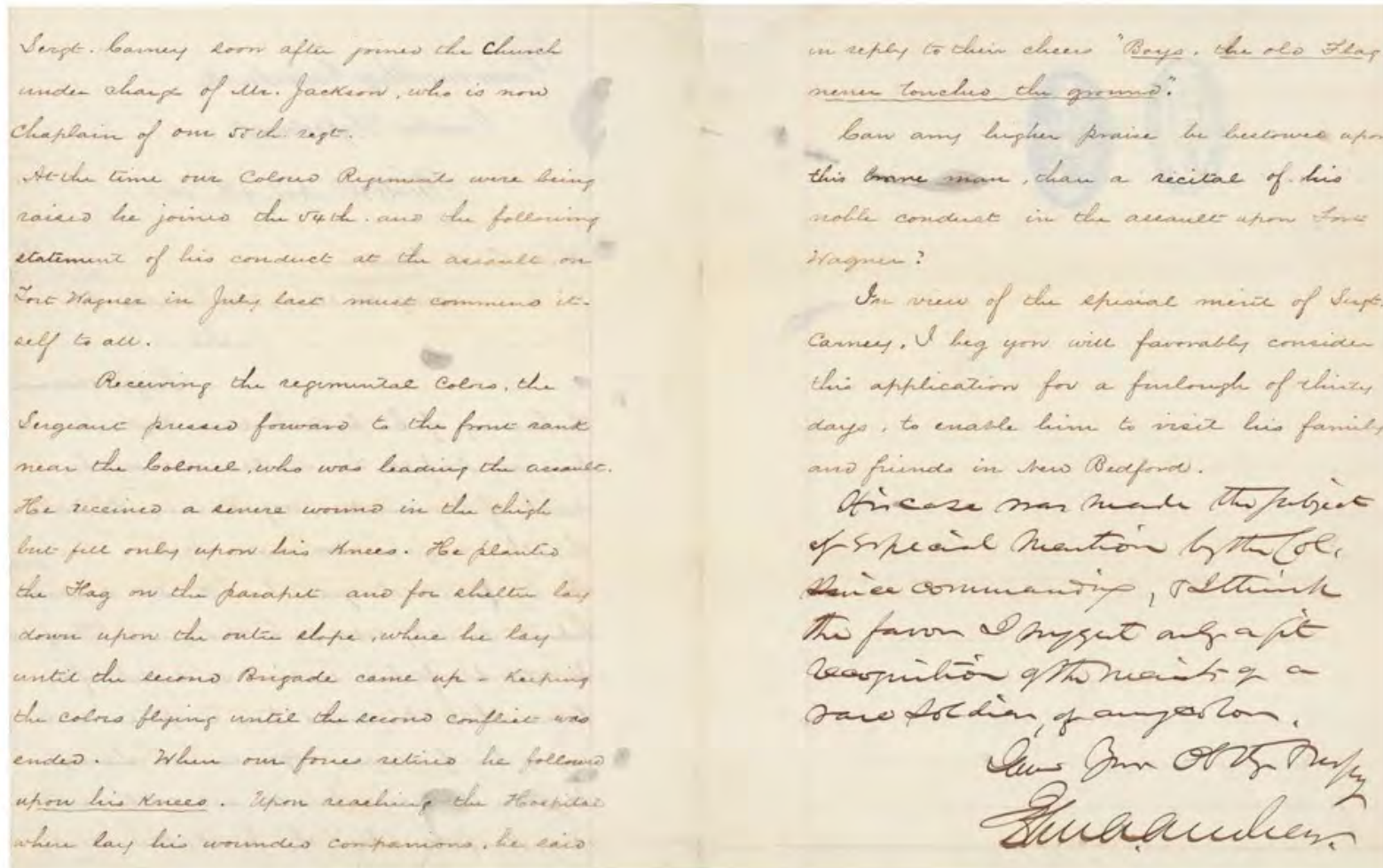




Arlington Street Church - 1860

# Civil War

“We dedicate our house of prayer in troubled times when the sight of armed men is familiar in our streets”



Pages 2 and 3 from a letter from Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts to the Secretary of War detailing Carney's actions, 11/09/1863



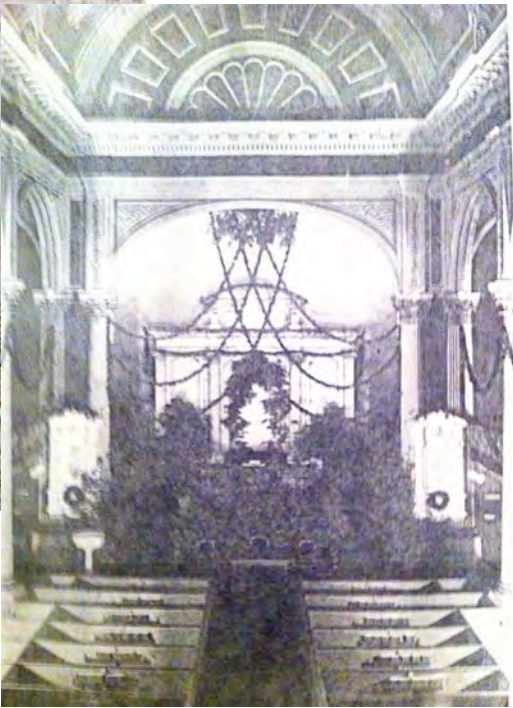
# ASC Interior

## 1860s

- No stained glass until 1899
- Terracotta paint, contrasting detail
- Lower pulpit (until 1911)
- Flat 3-part chancel design (until 1911)

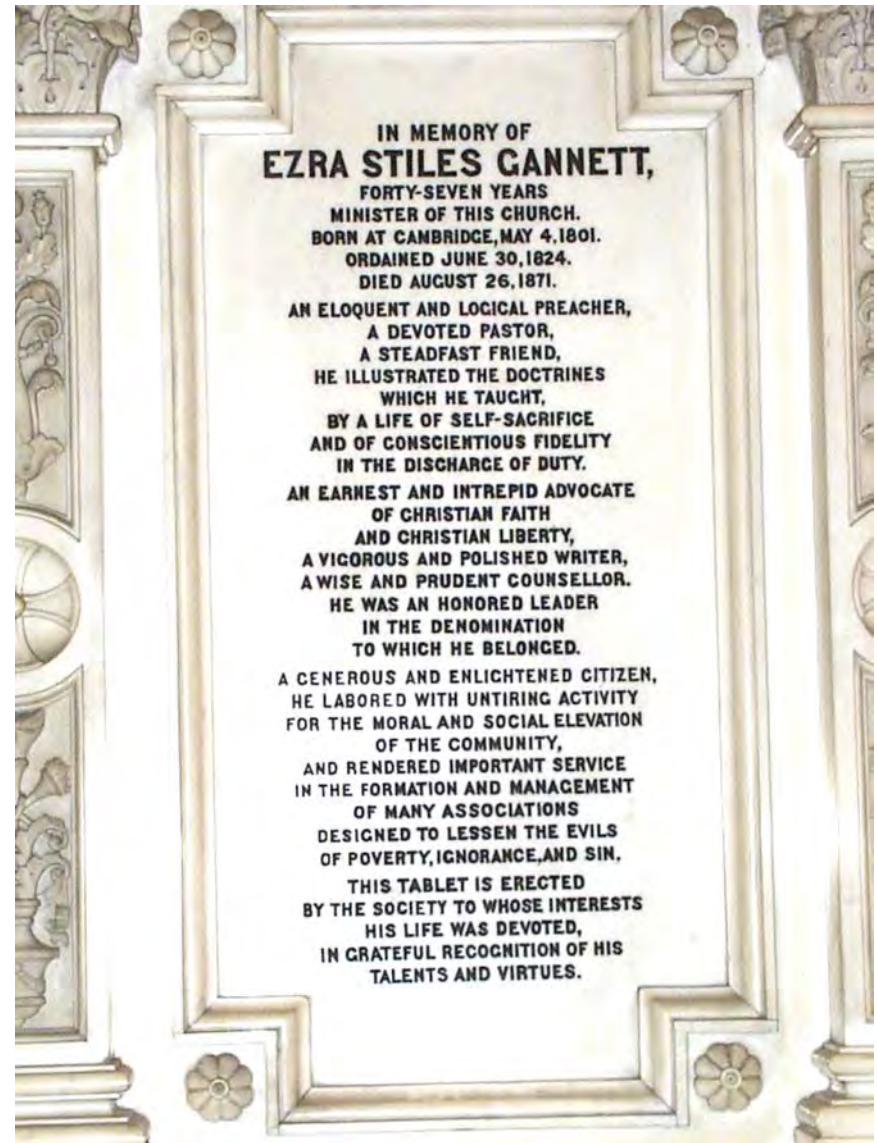
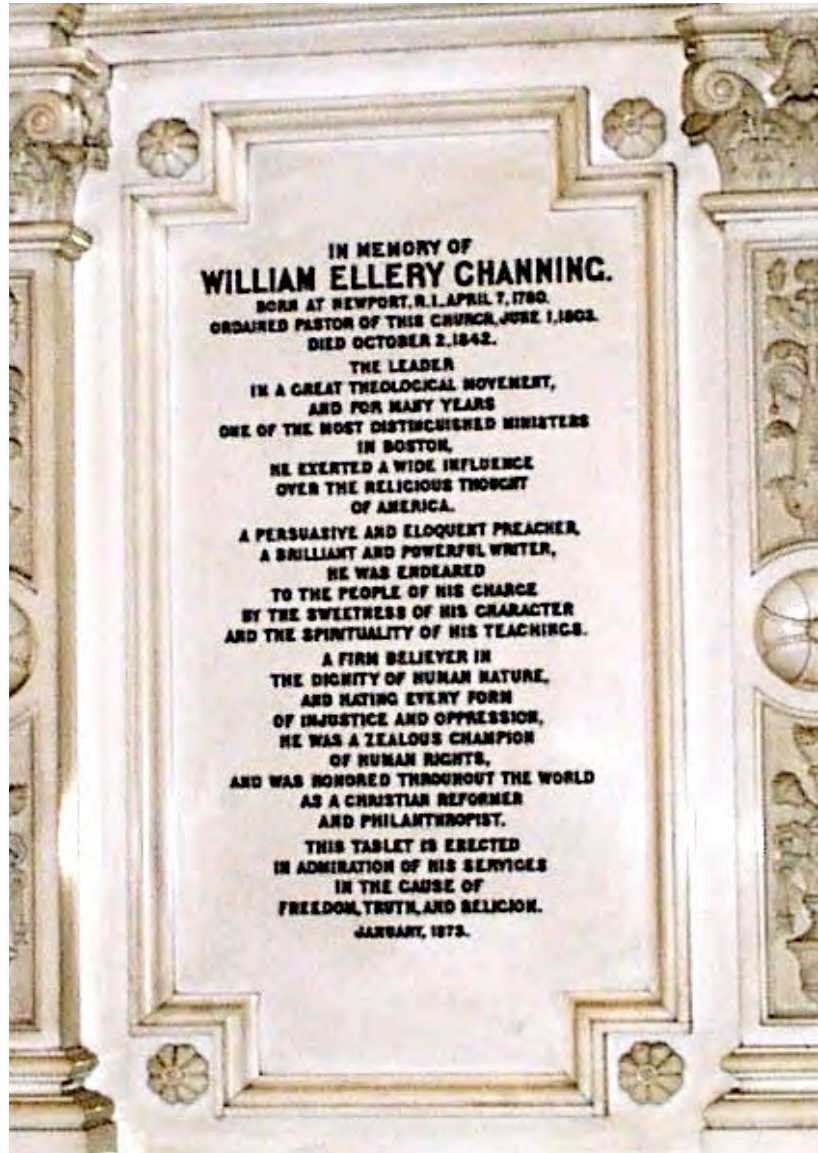








# Channing and Gannett Memorials



# Rev. JFW Ware 1871-1881

- Descended from a long line of liberal ministers
- Leadership in the Sanitary Commission during the Civil War
- Communion Controversy at ASC





What was the "pew controversy"?

What other social justice projects were undertaken?

# Rev. Brooke Herford 1881-1890





# A Pew Deed

## The Proprietors of Arlington Street Church

Incorporated by Act of the Massachusetts Legislature, June 15, 1805

Pew No. 41

Proprietorship Charge \$25.00

Be it Known, that Jane W. Chever is the Proprietor of Pew No. 41 in the Meeting House at the corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets in the City of Boston, owned by "The Proprietors of Arlington Street Church".

This pew is transferable only on the books of the Proprietors, by the owner thereof in person, or by his duly authorized attorney, upon surrender of this certificate properly endorsed, upon the conditions herein contained and not otherwise; and any transferee shall take the same subject thereto.

This pew is conveyed subject to, and held upon, the following conditions:

(1) It may be assessed by the corporation, for the maintenance and support of public worship of God, for the repairs or alterations of its Meeting House, for making any reasonable addition to the salary of its Ministers, and for other parochial and incidental charges, regard being had in making said assessment to the situation and convenience of said pew; and all monies so assessed shall be paid annually, or by installments, at such time, and in such proportions as the corporation shall determine.

(2) It may be taken and sold for the payment of any assessments duly made upon it, and for the expenses incurred in such sale, at any time after three months' default exists in the pay-

# Social Justice

- Women's Auxiliary – Sewing Projects
- Freedman's Aid Society
- Benevolent Fraternity support
- Sunday School outreach to community
- Sanitary Commission – later the Red Cross
- American Unitarian Association



*Letter from  
John A. Andrew*

NEW-ENGLAND

# FREEDMAN'S AID SOCIETY

TO THE

## COLORED PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH.

### LETTER FROM GOV. ANDREW, OF MASSACHUSETTS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

As the time approaches for re-opening the Schools for Freedmen, we call upon you to come up to the help of this great work of Education.

The North must furnish money and teachers, — must send out the noblest of her sons and daughters to teach your sons and daughters. We ask you to provide for them, whenever possible, school-houses and subsistence. Every dollar you thus save us will help send you another teacher. Time presses. The enjoyment of every right hangs on Education. A free, self-supporting, intelligent people must and will secure equality of political and civil rights. No power can prevent them. Abraham Lincoln decreed your emancipation from Slavery. Let us complete the work, and emancipate the mind from ignorance. Liberty means a fair chance to win all the honest prizes of life; means the opportunity to be and become all that our own faculties and our own good purposes may command. You are now free to receive help in becoming intelligent citizens. But not even God can make you so unless you help yourselves.

You can supply the teachers' homes with corn, eggs, chickens, milk, and many other necessary articles; provide forage for horses; work on the needed repairs. Work an extra hour to sustain and promote your schools. The teachers will toil many an hour for your children. A school supported or even aided by yourselves will do you tenfold more good than a school wholly maintained by the charity of others.

Thus far the colored people have nobly fulfilled the hopes of their true friends. Keep on, and never fail. When the free school of New England is spread all over the South, then our people will become one people, dwelling together in unity; they will become great and powerful, mutually respecting and helping each other, and an example to all the world.

God speed the time!

JOHN A. ANDREW, President.

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 1, 1865.

### THE MEETING IN THE ARLINGTON-STREET CHURCH (DR. GANNETT).

Among other measures recently initiated to aid the objects of the New-England Freedmen's Aid Society was the calling of meetings in the different wards of Boston towards that end.

We are glad to chronicle the success of the meeting held last Sunday evening at the Arlington-street Church, under the auspices of a committee of citizens of Ward Nine. The church was well filled. Judge Putnam presided; and addresses were made by Rev. John Parkman, Edward Atkinson, Judge Russell, and Rev. Dr. Gannett; the latter taking the place of Rev. Dr. Stone, who was unavoidably absent. Dr. Gannett seemed to give the sense of the meeting as, with his wonted energy of utterance, he expressed the opinion, "that to aid the Freedmen was the one great duty of the hour."

When we add, that, within a quarter of an hour after the close of the meeting, more than thirteen hundred dollars were subscribed, and that there is a fair chance of raising several hundred more, through the aid of an efficient Ward Committee nominated at the meeting, we think it is not exaggeration to say, that the meeting was in every respect a success.

We hope to record similar meetings, and like good results, in the other wards of the city.

# BRANCH OF FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY.

MRS. H. GREW, *President.*

MRS. W. L. P. BOARDMAN, *Treasurer.* MR. P. H. WOOLFOLK, *Teacher,*  
(Richmond, Va.)

MRS. E. W. FORBUSH, *Secretary.* MISS S. P. LILLIE, *Teacher,* (Hilton  
Head, S.C.)

Virginia > Richmond > 1886 > Richmond, Virginia, City Directory

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS

BROAD E	(600)	BROAD E
		<i>Jail Alley Intersects.</i>
Vile Hubbard		1500 Danti G
Kuyk D A		1502 *Luckadoe J R
*Jackson John		1503
1228 Nelson Fannie Mrs		1505 } *Selden W S
Odenheimer Joseph		1507 }
Nelson Abram		1504 *Woolfolk P II
*Jordan Henry		*Stewart William
		1506 *Jackson William
<i>College Intersects.</i>		1509 Mannoni Lucy Mrs
		Mannoni A B
<i>Fourteenth Intersects.</i>		1508 *Gray Isaac
1403 Adams Ann Mrs		1510 *Martin Mollie
1405 Whitlock Henry		1511 *Walters Robert
Whitlock S S		*Jackson Charles
Whitlock Edward		1512 *Walker Robert
Whitlock Daniel		1513 *Vaughan C J
Whitlock A H		*Crawley G M
1407 Levy H H Dr		1514 *Bell William
1412 Anderson C E Jr		1515 *Vaughan M W
Curtis Thomas		*Ransom G W
1413		*Foster David
1414 *Dabney John		*Dupuy Jerry

NOVELTIES

SILKS

BLACK GOODS

DRESS GOODS

FOR

many mistakes in cooking them, but we take the advice of friends, and we think this month we shall be able to do better.

Our school is getting along nicely now. At first we were almost disheartened, they seemed so wild and so utterly regardless of school discipline; but we can see great improvement since the first opening; and I don't think I am too ambitious when I venture to hope that ere long we can compare our schools favorably with those at the North, in point of order and general good behavior. Seats have been made for the church, since opening our school, and two windows have been put in; but I am afraid, from the daily increase of our number, we shall find what we have hardly sufficient for them. This morning several large boys came in for the first time. They don't know their letters, but I am quite pleased with their faces: they look intelligent. Many of the children need clothing very much.

This past week has been a very eventful one. A battle only twelve miles from here at Boyd's Point on the mainland! We could hear the cannonading and see the smoke of the burning fields during the engagement. Two of the regiments that left here on Tuesday so full of hope and courage suffered severely, and on Thursday the wounded were brought back to the hospital to be cared for. We visited them on Saturday, and were glad to see them all receiving such good care and attention. On Sunday I spent the day at the hospital, and wrote letters for them, wet the wounds, and did whatever I could to make them comfortable. Nearly all seemed to be in good spirits, and were anxious to be well and back to their regiment again. SARAH P. LILLIE.



# Late 19<sup>th</sup> c. ASC



# ASC from Public Garden 19<sup>th</sup> c.





# Rev. John Cuckson 1891-1900

- A difficult time in our history and in our nation (The “Gilded Age” )
- Post-war struggles
- New technologies and opportunities
- Social injustice
- A minister with serious health problems

# Who knew?

**Boston Globe 7 December 1895 page 2**

 Reclip

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$\frac{1}{4}$   
 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{1}{3}$   
 $\frac{1}{4}$   
 $\frac{1}{2}$

## Arlington St Church Held Gay Throng Today.

---

$\frac{1}{8}$   
 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{3}{4}$   
 $\frac{7}{8}$

### Mr Geo. S. Mumford and Miss Isabelle M. Lee Married.

---

$\frac{1}{8}$   
 $\frac{1}{7}$

Ceremony Took Place at Noon, Rev  
John Cuckson Officiating.

---



# Next time.... ASC in the 20th Century and Beyond!

