

Finding Your Way through Storytelling: The Thoreau Trail and Chinatown Trail

Massachusetts Trails Conference
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Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE)

- CHSNE's mission is to document, preserve, and promote the history and legacy of Chinese immigration to the New England area



紐英崙華人歷史協會
Chinese Historical Society
of New England

Celebrating 25 Years | 1992-2017 | chsne.org

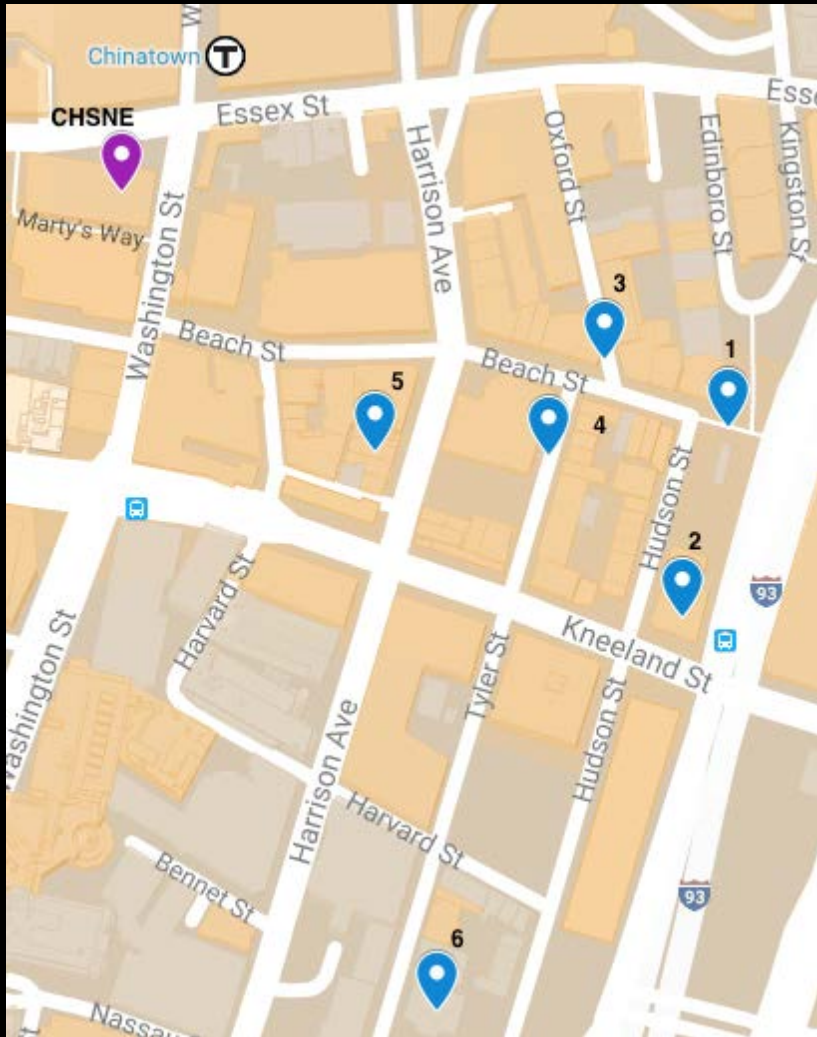


Boston Chinatown Heritage Project

- Collaborative effort to recognize, preserve and celebration Boston's Chinatown as place of historical and cultural significance
- Partnership between NPS RTCA and CHSNE



Chinatown Heritage Trail



Chinese Merchants Association



Image: Dedication of the New Chinese Merchants Association Building, 1951.

On its dedication in 1951, the Chinese Merchants Association building was intended as a new landmark for Chinatown as well as its first community center. With its traditional roof pagoda, impressive façade of balconies, and side lanterns, the building represented a visible entrance to Chinatown. However, one-third of the building was demolished due to the construction of the Central Artery and the Massachusetts Turnpike Extension in 1954.

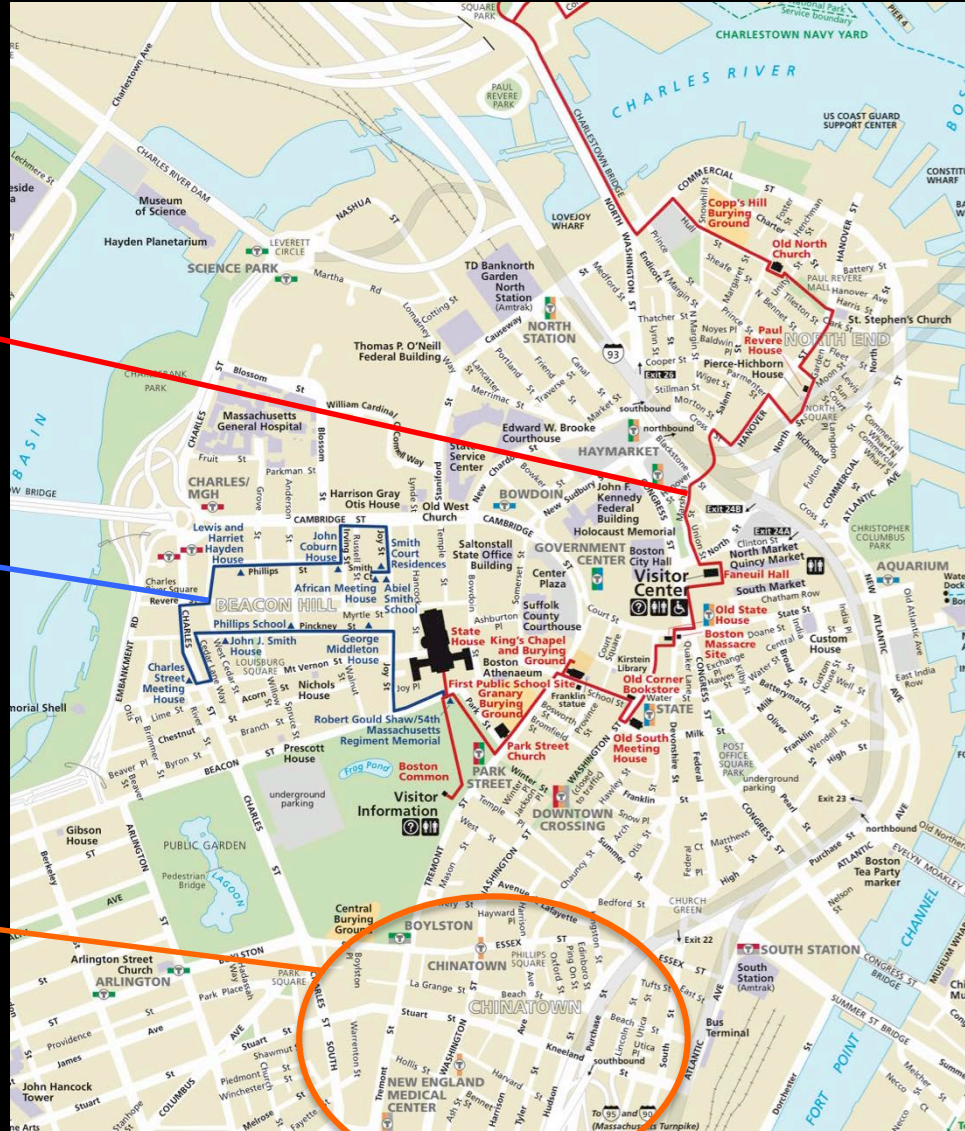


Preliminary Work: Boston Heritage Trails

Freedom Trail

Black Heritage Trail

Chinatown Heritage Trail



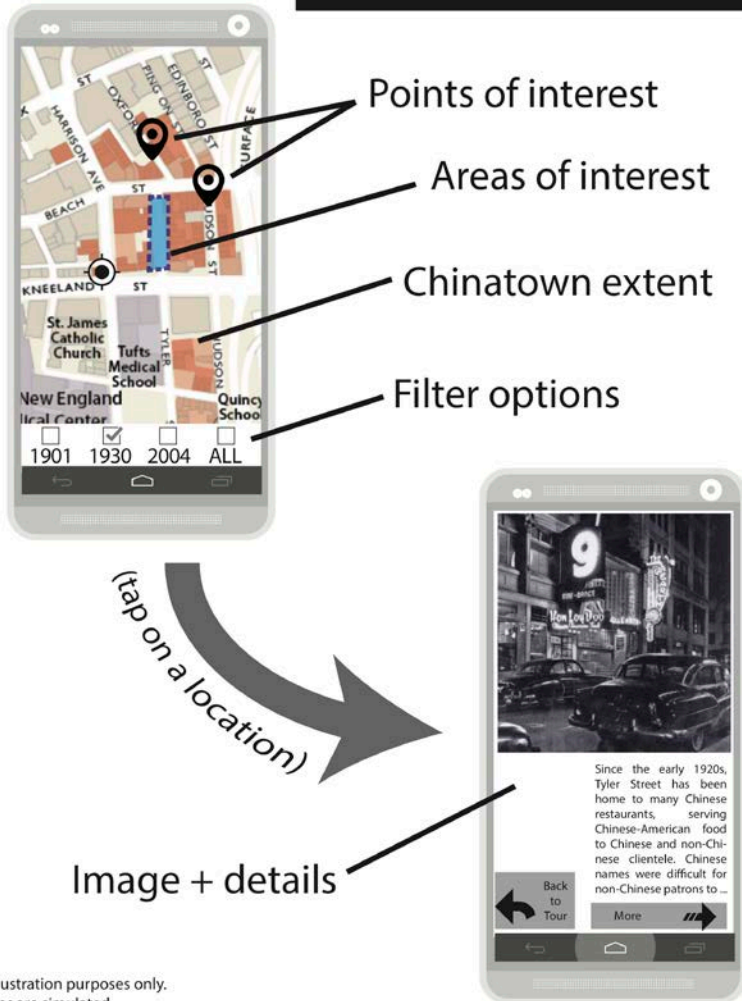
Preliminary Work: Walking Tours



- Led by CHSNE volunteers and staff for groups of 10 or more
- 30 min lecture, 60 min walking

Preliminary Work: App Design

Wireframe: History Tour



- Using a pre-made AR app interface that we can customize through content

For illustration purposes only.
Images are simulated.



Preliminary Work: Videos

- Summer interns in Castle Square Tenants Organization Teen (CSTO) Program
- Local filmmaker Kenneth Eng with historian Tunney Lee



Community stories

- Local history as told by past and present residents through family stories, photographs, videos, documents, objects, music, census data, land use, and more



Next Steps

- Consult with community groups to define trail route
- Launch interpretive trail app and brochure
- Explore options for trail marking/signage
- Link trail with new branch library programs

