Question of the Day

• What does the history of Boston’s development tell us about the issues facing the city today?
The growth of Boston was shaped by four distinct themes:

- Early exploitation of the advantages of controlling direction of development
- Integration of open space in city
- City relationship to the water
- Transportation needs and problems
City Upon a Hill
or
City Upon a Landfill
Forces that shaped city aren’t unique:

- Natural Environment
- Rail Transportation
- Roads/Autos
- Shipping
- Retail Trade
- Wholesale Trade
- Service Trades
- Manufacturing
- U.D. Movements
- Immigration/Social Structure
- Institutions
- Tourism
- Federal Investment
- Community development programs
- Public Open Space
- Land Subdivision
Fig. 6. The center of Boston in the 1640's
The Town of Boston
In New England
by John Bower
1722

Fig. 16. The Boston map of 1722

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
Fig. 50. Quincy Market between South and North Market Streets

Fig. 51. Plan of the Quincy Market development superimposed on the old waterfront
Figure 3.14. Boston Harbor, 1834.
During the early 1800s, Boston became a prosperous port of over forty wharves and twelve major shipyards. The
Fig. 52. The Back Bay in 1836
Fig. 53. Trains crossing the Back Bay in 1844
Fig. 89. The Back Bay in 1871
Fig. 95. Commonwealth Avenue in process
Fig. 98. The Museum of Natural History in 1864
Fig. 101. Copley Square in the 1880's
Fig. 105. The Back Bay in 1888
Fig. 96. Commonwealth Avenue completed
Fig. 83: David Sears's plan for Back Bay development