



A TOUR OF  
HISTORIC  
ELEMENTS IN  
THE FILENE'S  
BLOCK

# FILENE'S BLOCK WALKING TOUR MAP



When Millennium Boston assumed control of the former Filene's store site at Boston's Downtown Crossing in 2012, the Company resolved to honor and celebrate the history of this focal city block. We suggest visitors use this brochure to tour the historical commemorations of relics that evoke Boston's storied past.



# TRINITY CHURCH COMMEMORATIVE WINDOW 1

A handsome bronze tablet had been installed on the yellow brick of the Hawley Street façade of the Filene’s store in a ceremony in 1952 led by The Most Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, the Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. to commemorate this location as the site of the first and second edifices of Trinity Church. Note the tablet indicates the date of the first building, “Built in 1734” below the depiction of the second church erected in 1829.

Upon completion of the redevelopment of this block, Millennium Boston will return the tablet to public view by placing it at a prominent street window and convening a ceremony of rededication on May 23, 2017, led by the rector of Trinity Church in the City of Boston, The Rev. Dr. Samuel T. Lloyd III.



Trinity Church  
Cherubs



## 1734

As the third Anglican parish in Pre-Revolutionary Boston, the founders of Trinity Church gathered at this corner in a wood-framed structure of 5,400 square feet. In contrast to its plain Colonial style exterior without tower or steeple, the interior is reputed to have been richly decorated with carved Corinthian pillars and fine paintings. The sole artifacts to have survived from this building are four oil paintings of cherubs, two of which have been reinterpreted to create the background wallpaper for this window display.



## 1829

The work of architect George W. Brimmer, a Trinity parishioner, this early Gothic Revival creation was destroyed in the Great Fire that swept through 65 acres of downtown Boston in 1872. The burgeoning Episcopal parish, then led by the nationally-celebrated preacher Phillips Brooks, had two years earlier voted to leave this business-dominated district and relocate to the newly laid out, residential Back Bay neighborhood.



## 1877

Shown here from the southeast is the masterful and celebrated Neo-Romanesque structure designed under the leadership of Phillips Brooks by the then young architect Henry Hobson Richardson. The first building to be termed Richardsonian Romanesque, Trinity Church has been considered one of the top ten buildings in America every year since its completion. The church’s imposing presence that dominates Copley Square continues to house and serve a large and dynamic Episcopal parish.



Images of the three church buildings and of the angelic cherubs are reproduced courtesy of Trinity Church, Boston, Massachusetts. Detail of the 1743 map of Boston, Massachusetts by William Price (Collection of the Boston Public Library) (Public Domain) (Price, born in England in 1684 and died in Boston in 1771, was a founder and benefactor of Trinity Church). Detail of the Boston Fire Insurance Map from 1871 (Courtesy of the Bostonian Society, Boston, Massachusetts). Detail of the 1888 Map published by G.W. Bromley & Co. (Collection of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library).

# 10 SUMMER STREET LOBBY NICHES 2

## CLASSICAL BRACKETS FROM THE LOST 1905 BUILDING AT 33 FRANKLIN STREET

The five heavy cast iron brackets on display in this niche originally festooned the street façade window casings of the Jones, McDuffee & Stratton Co. building designed by eminent Boston architect Arthur Wallace Rice that bookended this city block at Franklin and Hawley streets. Mounted under the structure's second floor granite lintels, these brackets survived the twentieth century's predilection to "modernize" storefronts.

## RAILING FRAGMENTS FROM THE FORMER 1912 FILENE'S STORE

The three wrought iron elements mounted in this niche survive from many incorporated in mezzanine balcony and stairwell railings in the legendary William Filene's Sons Company emporium in business at this site until 2007. Daniel Hudson Burnham, the celebrated Chicago-based architect of this noble Beaux-Arts style edifice, is remembered for his quote that embodies the dynamic spirit of the many who now work here in the Burnham Building:

*“Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood  
and probably themselves will not be realized.”*



33 Franklin Street Classical Brackets



1912 Filene's Store Railing Fragments

# JONES, MCDUFFEE & STRATTON CO. COMMEMORATIVE WINDOW

**THE TRANSFERWARE PLATES AND TILES**

The former popular "Wedgwood Old Blue Historical Plates" were manufactured by Josiah Wedgwood & Sons, Ltd. of Etruria, Staffordshire, England, exclusively for the Jones, McDuffee & Stratton Co. These transferware dishes customarily were exhibited in a china cabinet or mounted on a plate rail high on the wall in early twentieth century Americans' dining rooms. The front face of the pair of blue plates in this vitrine depicts an engraving of the progression of the growing firm's downtown locations, along with portraits of four of its illustrious proprietors. The reverse side commemorates highlights of the store's celebrated history. Each Christmas season from the late 1870s to the late 1920s, the partnership offered its valued customers a complimentary souvenir tile artfully presenting the coming year's calendar on one side and for the most part portraying an iconic New England landmark or mode of transport on the reverse. In 1910, some 12,000 of these Wedgwood tiles, an enormous figure for the time, were provided to customers, reflecting the vast reach of the firm's trade. These souvenir tiles, primarily produced in the color brown, now have become collectors' items.

**THE BUILDING**

From 1905 until 2008, the nine-story brick and stone edifice designed by prominent Boston architect Arthur Wallace Rice for the Jones, McDuffee & Stratton Co. anchored this downtown block at the corner of Franklin and Hawley streets. The structure was sold in 1929 to the expanding William Filene's Sons Company, which devoted the selling floors to its gift and toy, and, later, menswear departments. In a subsequent insensitive modernization, much of the two façades' refined architectural ornamentation, including elaborate cornice work, was lost.

**THE PARTNERSHIP**

The Jones, McDuffee & Stratton Co.'s predecessor firm was founded in 1810 by Otis Norcross who served as mayor of Boston from that year until 1827. Over its more than 150-year life, the store's proprietors comprised a roster of distinguished civic and business leaders. At the time of the company's one hundredth anniversary, this enterprise was reputed to be "The Largest Wholesale and Retail Crockery, China, and Glassware Establishment in the Country," purveying inventory from such foremost English makers of porcelain and stoneware as Wedgwood, Minton, Ridgways, Royal Worcester, and Crown Derby, as well as from factories in France, Germany, China, and the United States. With extensive warehouses at Boston Harbor served by rail spurs, the company grew into America's preeminent innovator in the field of tableware and was instrumental in the emerging custom of adopting and carrying an inventory of stock china patterns. With the onset of the Depression and changing consumer tastes, the company adapted by producing and selling pictorial china of college and university settings. Finally, in the 1950s, no longer dominant in the crockery business, the company became a subsidiary of a local corporate food service equipment vendor.

**LAMPWARE**

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**Founded 1810**

**Jones, McDuffee & Stratton Co.**

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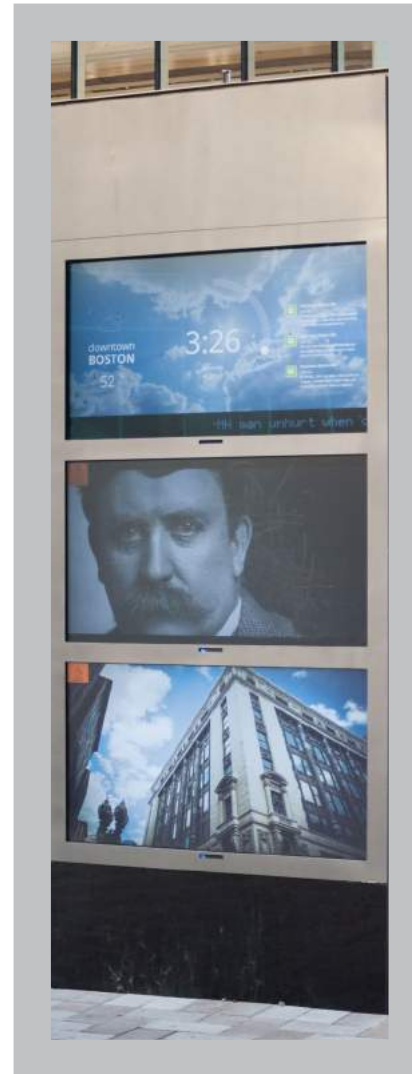
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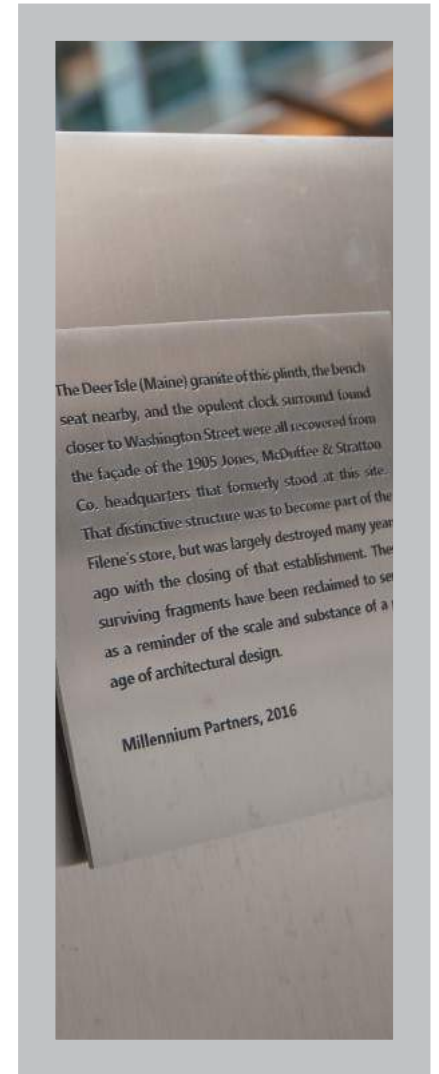
Shoppers Plaza Clock

# ARTIFACTS IN SHOPPERS PLAZA, INCLUDING THE FILENE'S HISTORICAL VIDEO

4 5 6



Historical Video



Commemorative Plaque

Surviving fragments from the former building at this site have been reclaimed to serve as a reminder of the scale and substance of a past age of architectural design. The Deer Isle (Maine) granite of the plinth that now serves as a sign for Millennium Tower and the bench seat nearby, as well as the opulent clock surround close to Washington Street, were recovered from the façade of the 1905 Jones, McDuffee & Stratton Co. headquarters that formerly stood on the corner of Hawley and Franklin streets.

A 15-minute video recounting the history of Filene's and Filene's Basement runs regularly on the center video screen mounted on the reverse side of the antique clock at Washington Street.

MILLENNIUM BOSTON

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