

beacon hill

population	gross area	population density	housing units	median income	median age
69,648	.94 sq.mi.	28,083 ppsm	17,663	\$66,427	32.8

Information from 2000 U.S. Census data

history

Beacon Hill, the last of Boston's three original hills, was named for the sentry light raised on its peak. The State House, with its hallmark gold leaf dome, was built near the original colonial beacon and today shines over Boston Common. The original (and for a long time, only) settler of Beacon Hill was the Rev. William Blackstone, who built a thatched hut here in 1625 and tended his flock of sheep in what would become Boston Common. Until the end of the 18th century, the south slope of Beacon Hill was a pasture owned by painter John Singleton Copley. He sold it to the Mount Vernon Proprietors, one of the country's first development partnerships, who with Thomas Bulfinch built the nation's first mansion district. Today, this National Historic District remains an exceptionally well-preserved 19th century enclave with its cobblestone streets, brick sidewalks, decorative iron-work and gaslamps.

today

Beacon Hill boasts some of the highest property values in the United States, and properties in coveted Louisberg Square routinely set price records for Boston. **Charles Street** and **Cambridge Street** are the Hill's main commercial areas, boasting some of the city's finest antique shops and restaurants. The streets of Beacon Hill have considerable energy and liveliness: the neighborhood is home to the State House, Emerson College and Suffolk University, and the Financial District, Fox News, and Mass General Hospital are all nearby.

location

Approximately one square mile in size, Beacon Hill is located just north of Boston Common and the Boston Public Garden and is bounded by Beacon Street, Bowdoin Street, Cambridge Street and Storrow Drive along the riverfront of the Charles River Esplanade. Beacon Hill is one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Boston, with about 10,000 people in 60 blocks.

housing stock

Beacon Hill's housing stock is predominantly brick Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian row houses which today are a combination of single-family homes and condo conversions. The most exclusive section of the Hill is the **South Slope**, which slopes towards Beacon Street and the Boston Common. In contrast to the Bulfinch's carefully planned streets, the **North Slope** developed more organically and is known for its narrow winding streets. The **Flat of the Hill** was originally part of the Charles River until it was filled in during Boston's original Big Dig in the 19th century. Prices tend to rise in proximity to Boston Common and the Public Gardens. Lastly, the architecture of Beacon Hill is protected by restrictive regulations that allow no changes to any visible part of a structure without the approval of an architectural commission.

famous residents

Charles Bulfinch • John Singleton Copley • John Hancock • Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. • Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. • John Kerry • Henry Cabot Lodge • James Russell Lowell • Robert Lowell • Sylvia Plath • Anne Sexton • Carly Simon

movies & books

The façade of the Bull & Finch Pub (named for Charles Bulfinch) was made famous by the long-running *Cheers* television series.

transportation

Living on Beacon Hill affords many residents the opportunity to walk to work in the nearby Financial District, Back Bay, South End. Public transportation is also convenient to points across the city.

Car: Take 93 South until Exit 26 (Storrow Drive). Take Copley Square/Back Bay exit. From Route 90 (Mass Pike), take the Prudential/Copley Exit. Street parking is often difficult, but parking is available at the Boston Common Garage, and is available for purchase at the Brimmer Street Garage.

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T: Beacon Hill is easily accessible by various T stops. The Park Street stop on both Green and Red Lines exits across the Common from the State House. The Government Center stop on both the Blue and Green Lines is near the top of the Hill, and the Red Line to the Charles/MGH stop is near the hospital.

shopping

AIX Armani Exchange • Burberrys • Betsey Johnson • Christian Dior • Cole-Haan • Barney's New York (coming spring 2006) • BCBG Max Mara • BOSS Hugo Boss • Crate & Barrel • DKNY • Gucci • Hermes • Kiehl's • La Perla • Louis Vuitton • Neiman Marcus • Polo Ralph Lauren • Pratesi • Restoration Hardware • Saks Fifth Ave • Tiffany & Co. • Williams-Sonoma

culture & amenities

Boston Atheneum • Boston Common • Boston Public Library • Harrison Gray Otis House (85 Mt. Vernon St.) • Public Gardens • Sports Club L.A.

local news sources

beaconhillonline.com

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