



The Historic Shops & Restaurants of Boston: A Guide to Century-Old Establishments in the City and Surrounding Towns

Phyllis Meras

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Weathervanes, clocks, paintings, cigars, candy, and nautical instruments are but a few of the goods still being provided to Bostonians by the city's historic shops. Many of these purveyors date from the nineteenth century—some as far back as Colonial days.

The city is filled with pubs, taverns, and restaurants dating back more than a century, too. You'll still find Ye Olde Union Oyster House on Union Street. In 1771, on the eve of the American Revolution, the seditious publication, *The Massachusetts Spy*, was printed upstairs. Later, the orator Daniel Webster would down as many as three dozen oysters at the mahogany bar, still in use, and wash them down with tumblers of brandy and water.

If you want to feel like a Boston Brahmin, have your hair cut at La Flamme Barber Shop (1898), furnished with the original mirrors set in mahogany frames, turn-of-the-century lighting, and marble counters. Or, have your grandmother's copy of *The Boston Cooking School Cook Book* rebound at a historic bindery that once made a slipcase to protect Charles Dickens's nightcap. Upper crust Bostonians have been buying jewelry from Shreve, Crump, and Low since it first opened in 1796—across the street from a silversmith named Paul Revere.

Over in Cambridge, poke through thousands of items of vintage clothing at a second-hand emporium where well-heeled Harvard students—Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, and John F. Kennedy among them—have been known to exchange their clothes for a little extra pocket money.

And don't forget the Swan Boats in the Boston Public Garden—they've been delighting children of all ages since 1870.

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