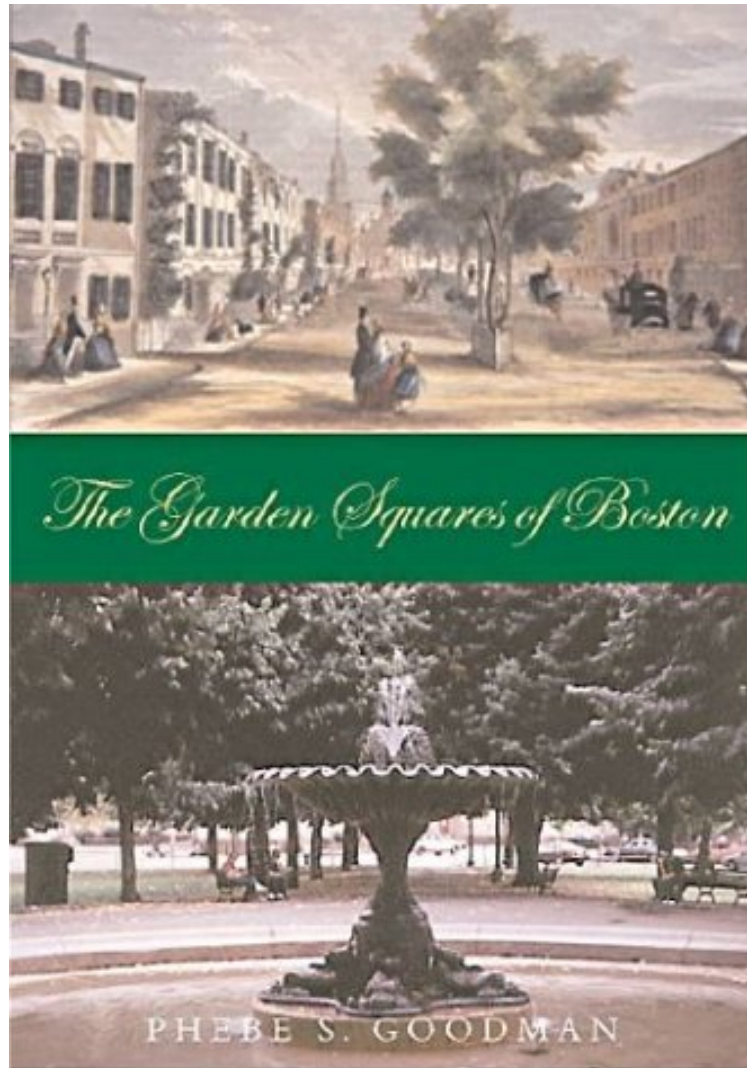


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The Garden Squares of Boston

Phebe S. Goodman

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Phebe S. Goodman : The Garden Squares of Boston before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Garden Squares of Boston:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Unique and Important Monograph.By PiotrThis is a significantly detailed history of the location, development, and maintenance of the existing city squares in Boston, Massachusetts. The historic photographs have been digitally reproduced and are very clear. I wish the author had included color photographs of the parks as they appeared in early 2000 when the book was published.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Must For Any Student Of Urban History/PlanningBy A CustomerBravo and many thanks to Goodman for her painstaking research and careful compilation of an important slice of not just Boston history, but

also of urban planning generally (and sometimes the lack of planning). Unlike many well researched monographs, this one is a fast read and the addition of a multitude of photos/drawings adds tremendously to the work. Read this book before you take any tour of Boston; you'll understand and appreciate what you see a whole lot more. I heartily recommend this one and look forward to more from the author.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Unique and thought-provoking
By Maureen A. Felix
This book provides a unique perspective on the history of Boston's garden squares. It is well-researched and carefully crafted. After providing a thorough and comprehensive historical background of these garden squares, the book compels the reader to assess not only the need for preservation of these treasures, but to also contemplate the urgency of careful urban planning in the future.

Of the many types of historic landscapes that have become treasured open spaces in North America's dense urban fabric, the garden (or residential) square has been largely overlooked. This work tells the story of Boston's garden squares and offers readers a glimpse of early urban planning.

"In this remarkable book, Goodman tells the story of Boston's garden squares and offers readers a fascinating glimpse of early urban planning, touching on the evolution and preservation of the garden squares of the South End of Boston . . . [A beautifully illustrated story of urban communal gardens." --New England Antiques Journal
"The idea of creating slivers of residential green spaces, often ornamented with elegant iron fences and fountains, was imported from London by celebrated Boston architect Charles Bullfinch. The purpose was to enhance the views and value of abutting townhouses, rather than encourage actual usage. Goodman, a Boston landscape preservation consultant and former director of the Friends of Copley Square, details the history and evolution of five of the eight publicly developed garden squares of the South End, plus now-paved-over gardens such as Bullfinch's Franklin Place, and the great iconic survivor, Louisburg Square. Built in 1826, Louisburg Square is now one of only two private London-style garden squares in the United States, the other being New York City's Gramercy Park." --Carol Stocker, Boston Globe
"[A successful effort that illuminates much about larger topics while addressing a seemingly narrow one... the book provides a wealth of information... the illustrations are outstanding and useful and the argument persuasive. Goodman's book will encourage readers to discover, or newly appreciate, these charming garden squares."--The New England Quarterly
"Goodman contributes to our understanding of the development of Boston in the nineteenth century. Her thorough discussion of the South End squares clearly demonstrates that the gardens were planned and planted long before any houses were built or lots sold. She convinces us that these gardens were meant to be signifiers of urban refinement, independent of the architecture that would soon enclosed them and evocative of fashionable possibilities. In the early 1850s, the South End was to be imagined as a new neighborhood, complete with gated parks surrounded by modern townhouses in the latest style. By building squares surrounded by empty lots, Boston rejected an imaginary landscape of gentility in a rapidly changing city. Goodman's research points the way to a fuller understanding of the role of the landscaped square in this important period of Boston's development."--Winterthur Portfolio
From the Publisher
7 x 10 trim. 62 illus.
About the Author
PHEBE S. GOODMAN is a landscape designer with a special interest in urban parks. For many years she was executive director of the Friends of Copley Square, which works in partnership with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to maintain Copley Square. She also has served as a landscape preservation consultant for the Chester Square Neighborhood Association in Boston's South End.