Ground-Breaking This Week: Plan Common Tourist Booth

Davidson, Sara Boston Globe (1960-1983); Sep 26, 1965; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Boston Globe

Ground-Breaking This Week

Plan Common Tourist Booth

An unusual ground-breaking ceremony is planned this week at the West Street M.B.T.A exit on Boston Common.

"Instead of breaking ground has been the driving force in we may be breaking the exit creating a tourists information booth on the Common.

The ground-breaking ceremony will inaugurate the tearing down of what Friedmann calls "an unattractive, old-fashioned structure—the present M.B.T.A. exit" and the building of a new combination subway exit and information office.

The building, financed jointly by the M.B.T.A. and a special city fund administered by the Dept. of Parks, will be 26' by 26' and will stand near the fountain on Tremont Street.

While Bostonians hurry out of the M.B.T.A. on one side of the building, visitors and students on the trail of Boston's historical heritage will be asking questions at the information booth on the other side.

The information seekers will be given Freedom Trail book-



ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF TOURIST BOOTH ON BOSTON COMMON

in disrespectful anonymity. I had a hard time even finding. The Freedom Trail Founda-

be given Freedom Trail booklets describing the 15 historical
sites organized into a 1½ mile
walking tour. Nearly two million copies of the booklet,
which outlines the way from
Boston Common to Old North

Trail project was initiated by
the Chamber of Commerce and
Advertising Club of Greater
Boston.

The visitors' information
booth has been a community
effort run by voluntary contributions of time and money.
Ironically, one of the most enthusiastic workers — Freedom
Trail Foundation president
Friedmann—sis an "import."
He was born in Czechoslovakia
and settled in Boston in 1947.

"When I came here I was
amazed that the community
didn't make much fuss about
its historical treasures,"
Friedmann told The Globe recently. "Most of the sites were

Trail project was initiated by
the Freedom Trail and making
difference between walking
the Freedom Trail and making
the freedom Trail was started.

"The big
would allow visitors to demound and making
the freedom Trail the sites are
not roped off, they're still
used," Friedmann said. "You
can go and worship at North
Church where the lanterns
were hung for Paul Revere,
and Old Ironsides is still used
as a navy training headquarfriedmann said, is standardthe history of the mountment.

But the next important project at reference
of a friedmann said, is standardthe history of the hooth will encourage visitors by making
them feel "more welcome."
Besides malerial on the Freedom Trail, the booth will provide information on hotels,
restaurants and entertainment

cently. "Most of the sites were restaurants and entertainment

tion hopes to have the name He said tourist attendance has grown from about 40,000 a year to over 500,000 since Freedom Trail. They are also

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