



River, and in 1963 to encompass the North Slope, between Myrtle and Cambridge Streets. Restrictive regulations allow no changes to the exteriors of buildings without approval from the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission.

Interiors are a different matter. And since it is human nature to periodically update one's home to the tastes of the day, no historic house survives one hundred percent in the "original." From the Hill's earliest years, rooms and entire houses have been altered to modernize their style or to introduce technological improvements. There have been occasional lulls in this kind of activity as the Hill's fortunes have waned — limited prosperity can be the best preservative. In recent years, as property values have risen and Beacon Hill has attracted new residents, the

#### ABOVE LEFT:

This large second-floor living room took form some forty years ago when the present owners moved into the Greek Revival house and removed partitions that had divided the area into four small rooms. The only remaining original features today are the tall windows overlooking lower Chestnut Street. The gracious ambiance is achieved with a superb collection of antiques acquired over many years, largely European, with numerous Chinese accents. One of the most unusual pieces in the room is the painted Chinese bridal chest in front of the sofa. Made of camphorwood and covered with pigskin, it dates from the middle of the nineteenth century. The Chinese-style rug was in fact made in Romania. The French Provincial style mantelpiece is contemporary, custom-designed to complement the collection; the mantel shelf holds a French clock, English porcelain doves, and Chinese Fu dogs, with an elaborate eighteenth-century Chippendale period mirror above.

#### ABOVE RIGHT:

In the front parlor of a late-Federal house, tall windows overlook upper Chestnut Street. The Chippendale tall-case clock, circa 1760, is signed "John Dawson, London." The mahogany chairs flanking the clock are of the same period. The Louis XV-style French tea table is a family piece. The George III Hepplewhite secretary bookcase is English, circa. 1790, and the Italian chairs on the same wall are neoclassical in design. To the left of the secretary is a marine painting by W. E. Norton (American, 1843-1916). The Chippendale wing chair in the foreground dates from the eighteenth century while the English needlepoint rug was purchased at auction in the 1970s. The house was built in 1822 as an investment property by Hepzibah Clarke Swan, whose collection of French furniture is now at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.