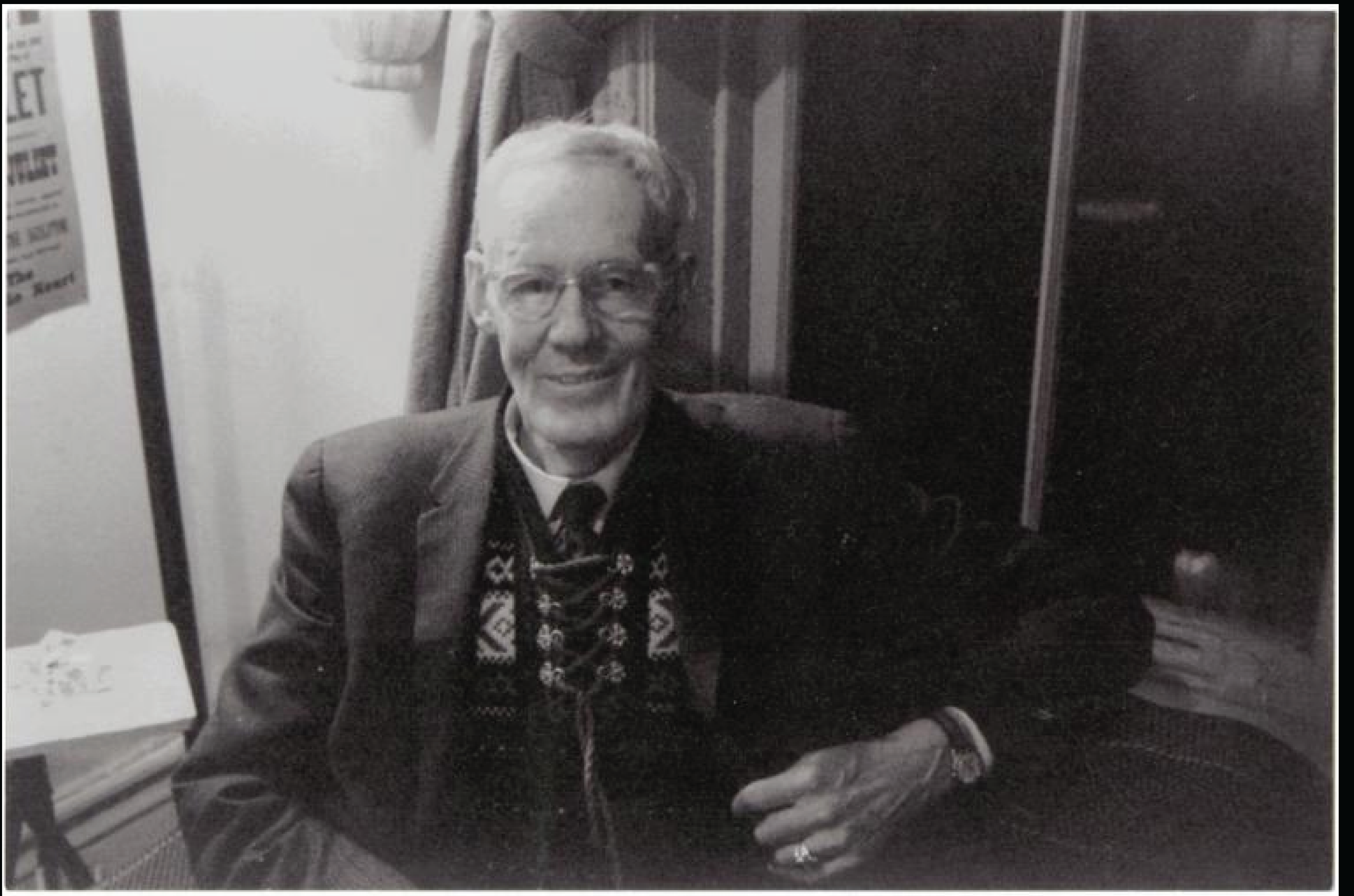


# 1900s



**“Early gay activist Prescott Townsend made his home on the north slope of Beacon Hill, adding his colorful, eccentric personality to the neighborhood’s vivid history... For much of the nineteenth century, one of the most dynamic free Black communities in the United States called the northern slope of Beacon Hill home. Later, the same part of the hill became the residence of various immigrant groups, including Jewish people who fled persecution in Eastern Europe. For a significant portion of the twentieth century, these immigrants and their descendants shared the hill with a lively counterculture presence that transformed the north slope into an enclave for artists and the LGBTQ+ community, starting in the 1920s. Townsend exemplified this bohemian side of Beacon Hill.”**

## Credits

Image: Prescott Townsend, 1960s, New York Public Library via National Park Service.

Text: Prescott Townsend, Boston National Historical Park, Boston African American National Historic Site <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/prescott-townsend.htm>