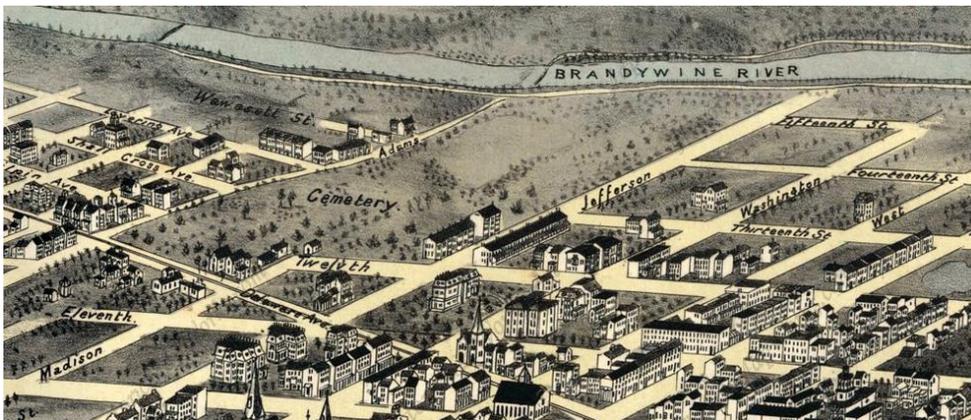
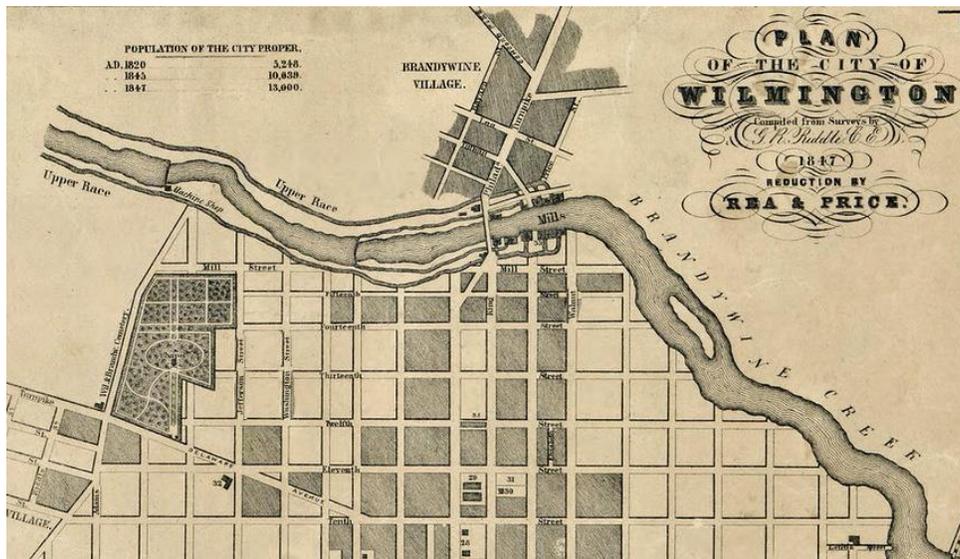


Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery Early Maps with a Description of the Changes to the Cemetery and to the Surrounding Area

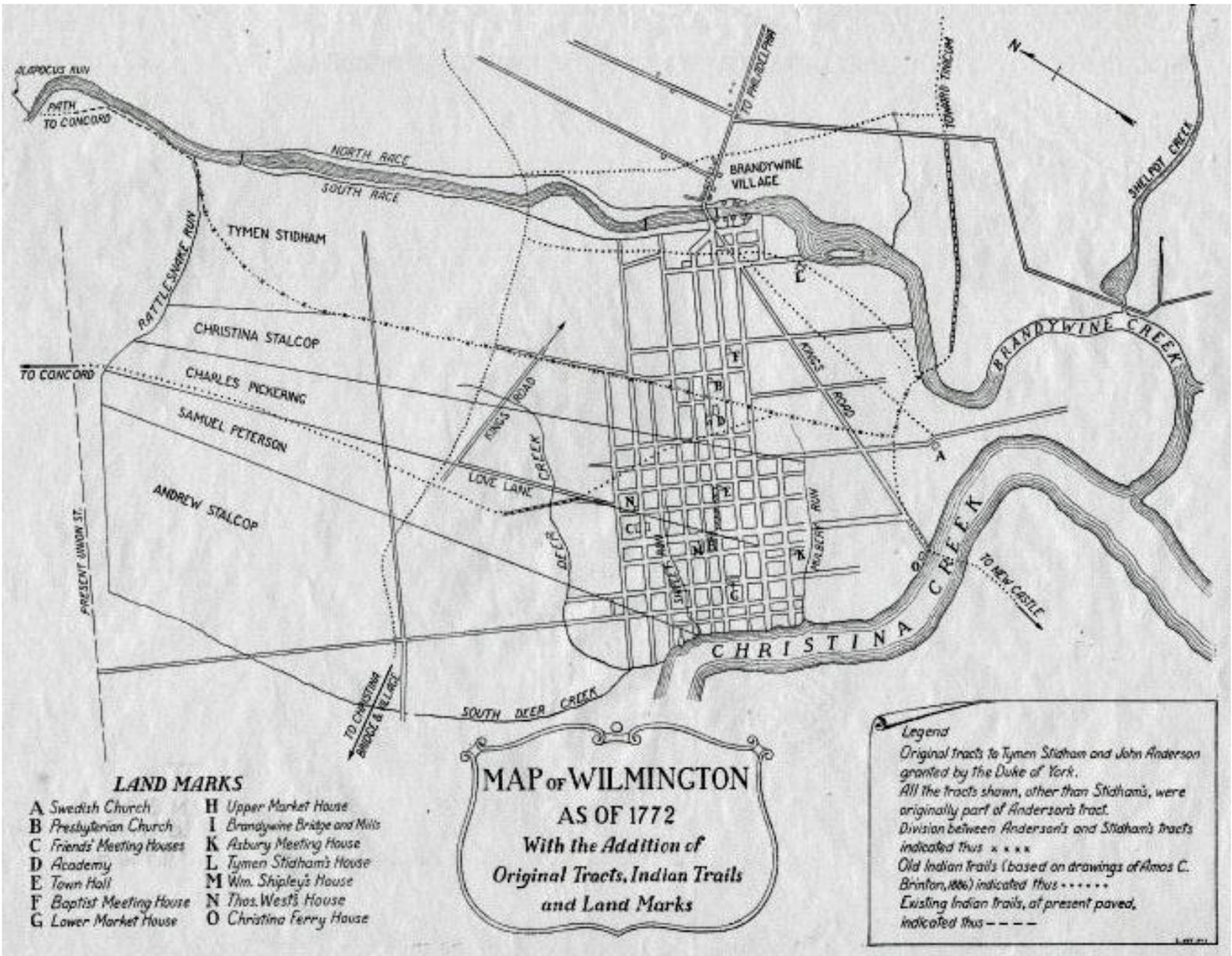


Franklin Pierce Mason II

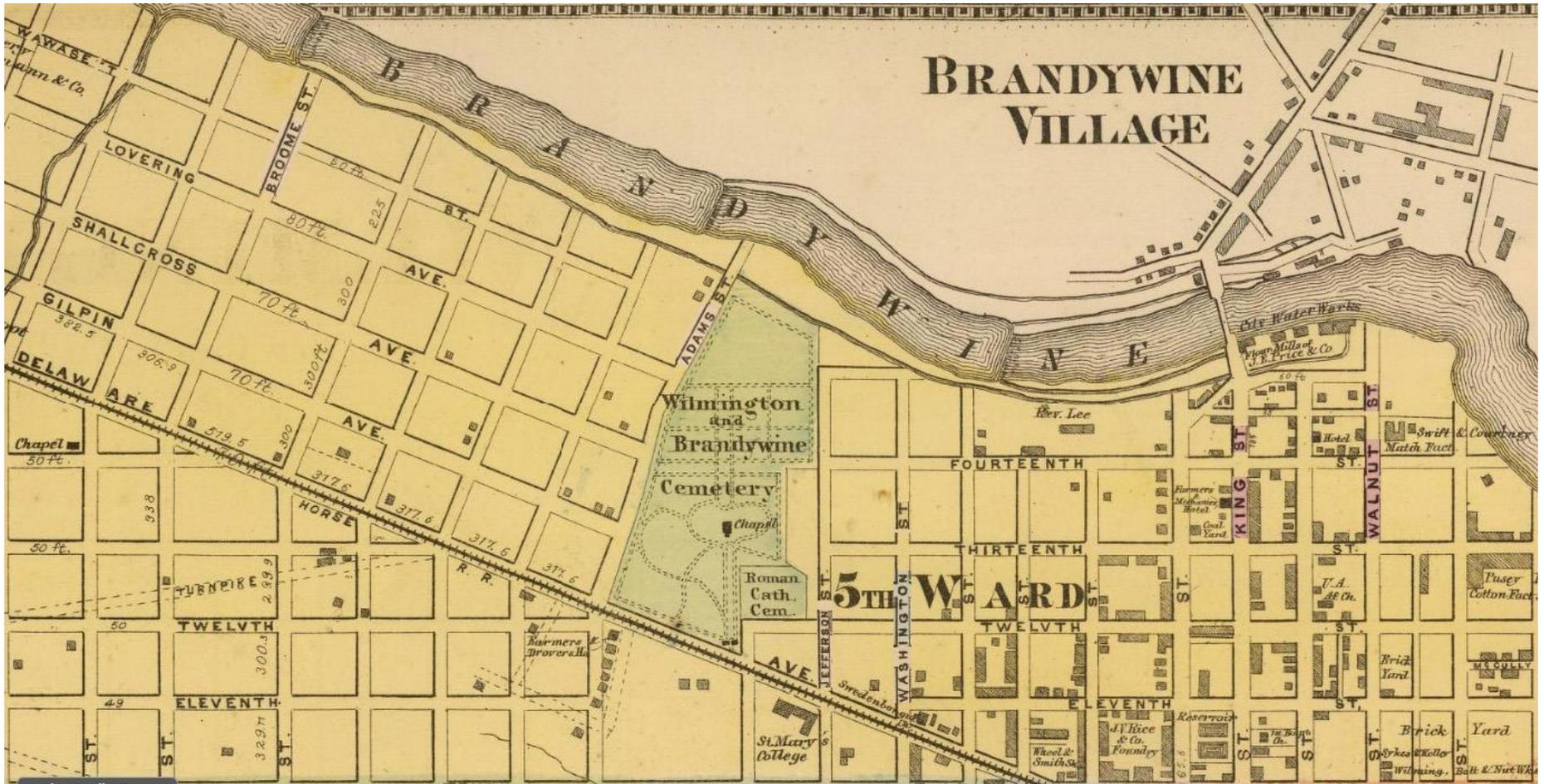
Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery Early Maps, With a Description of the Changes to the Cemetery and to the Surrounding Area

The Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery was envisioned in 1843 by Sam Wollaston, who sought to establish one of Delaware's first non-sectarian cemeteries on 10 acres of his Windsor Farm, which was outside the city of Wilmington at the time. His venture was quickly a success, and the following year, Wollaston formed a company to expand and landscape the site with Willard Hall serving as president. Engineer George Read Riddle was hired to design the cemetery. In 1850, James Canby planted an imported cedar of Lebanon at the entrance of the cemetery.^{1, 2}

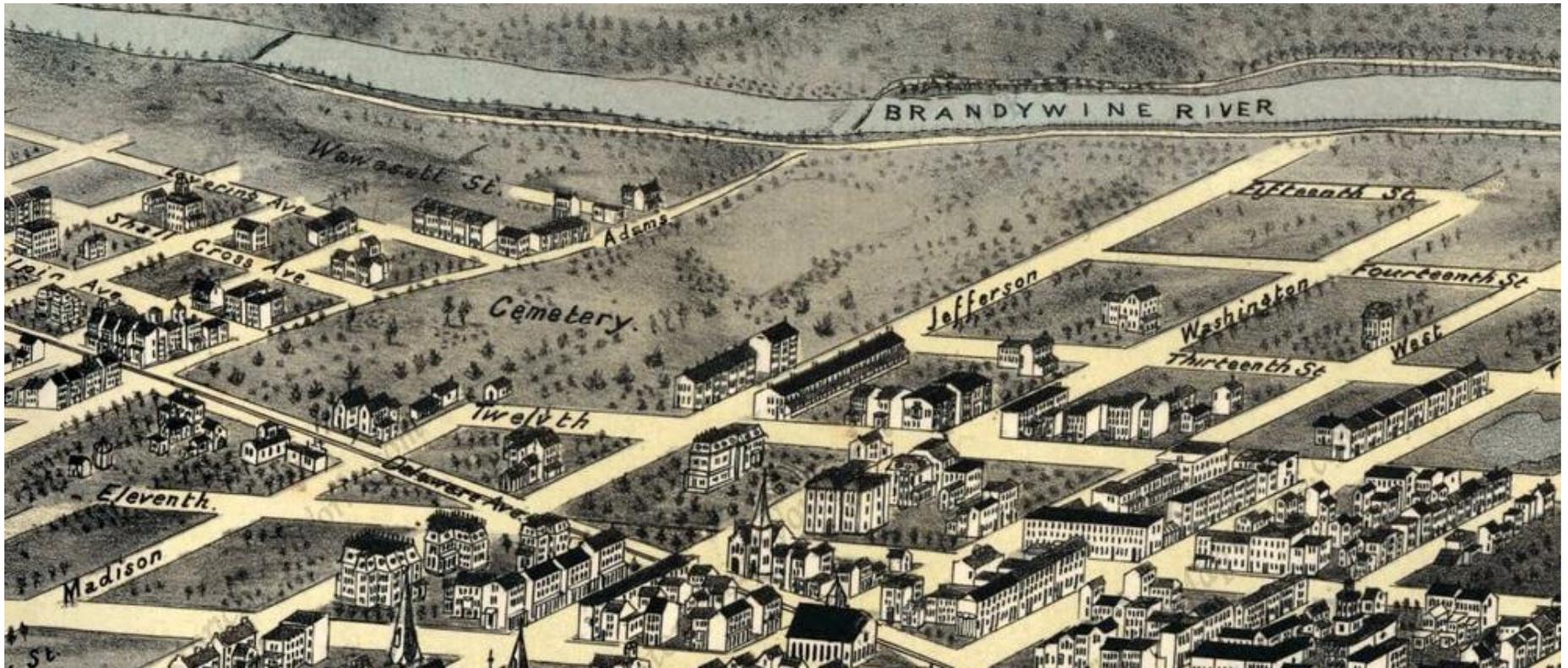
This essay contains several historic maps of the Cemetery and the surrounding area. The maps show the evolution of the Cemetery and its surroundings.



1772 Wilmington City Map,³ showing the North Mill Race and South Mill Race of Brandywine Creek.
 (This map does not show the Cemetery because the Cemetery was constructed some 71 years after this map was drawn.)



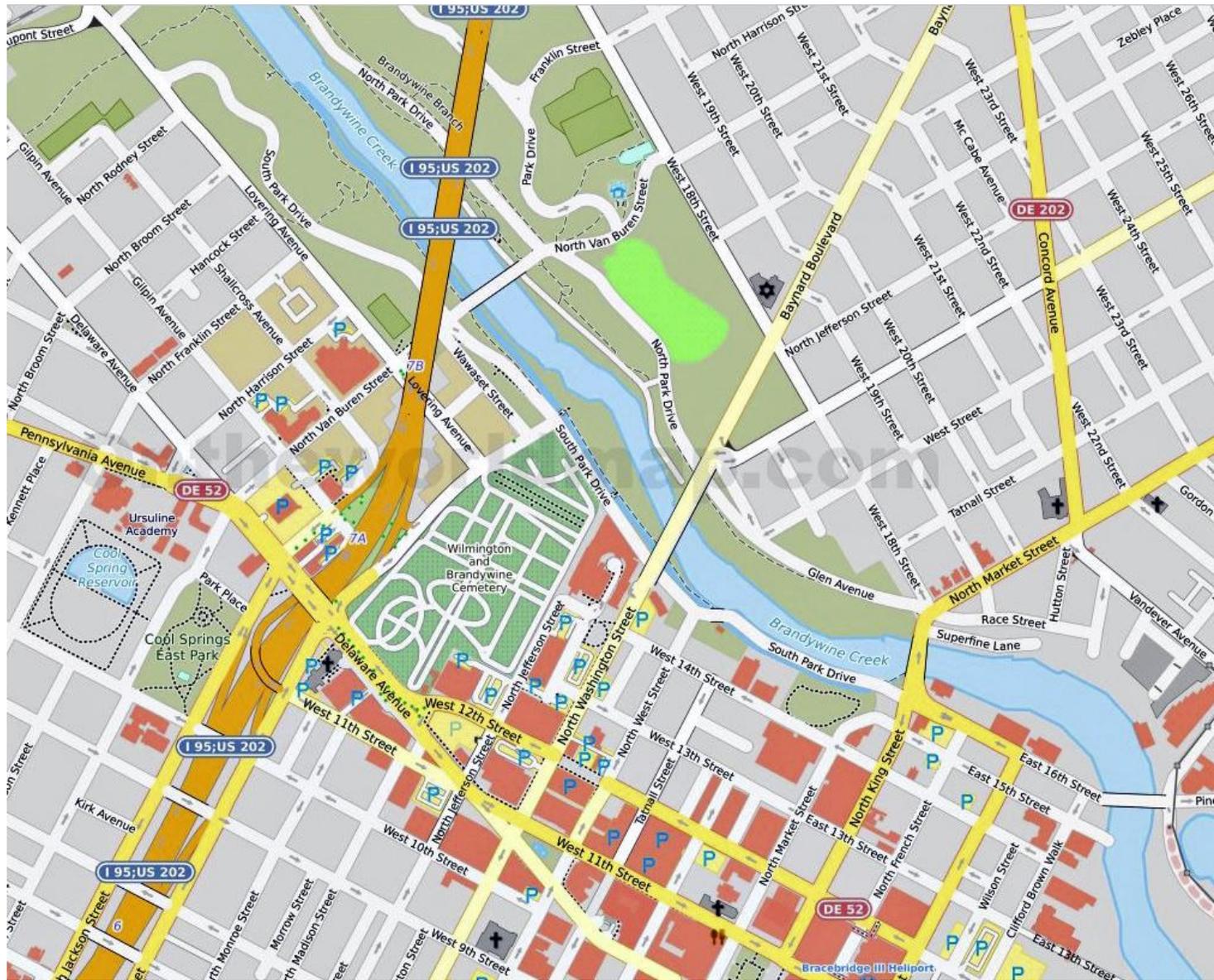
1868 Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery.⁵ (Note that the South Mill Race is shown originating just west of Broome Street and running east the City Water Works, which is between King Street and Walnut Street. Note the Roman Catholic Cemetery just south of the Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery.)



1874 map of the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery and the surrounding area. (This map is from a bird's eye view map of Wilmington, Delaware.⁶ It shows the Cemetery just 31 years after it had been established, in 1843.)



1921 Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery⁷



1990s Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery

Several significant changes have occurred to the Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery and to its surroundings since its founding in 1843.

For example, the Cemetery was expanded several times from its original 10 acres, such that it now occupies about 25 acres. [1847 and 1868 maps]

An important change to the surroundings of the Cemetery was the construction of what is now the Christiana Care Wilmington Hospital.⁸ This hospital had a modest beginning as the Delaware Hospital, which was constructed in 1890 at the corner of Washington and 14th Streets. This original hospital was a small building a full block away from the Cemetery and a block away from the river. Over the years, this hospital evolved into the Wilmington Hospital and then into Christiana Care Wilmington Hospital. In the process, the buildings expanded to fill many city blocks, such that the present hospital is a six-story building that is immediately adjacent to and overlooking the Cemetery, on the eastern side of the Cemetery, and the hospital is now almost adjacent to the river.

Several streets around the Cemetery have changed from those shown on the early maps. The most significant change in streets was the extension of Twelfth Street to merge with Delaware Avenue. Originally, Twelfth Street ended at the Cemetery. [1847, 1868, 1874, and 1921 maps] However, sometime after 1921, Twelfth Street was extended to connect to Delaware Avenue. Presumably, this was done to expedite the flow of traffic once automobiles became popular at about that time. This seems like a small change. However, it required a big change to the entrance of the Cemetery. The original Main Entrance had two Gothic Gate Houses surrounding it.⁹ Unfortunately, these beautiful buildings were removed to accommodate the extension of the street. Fortunately, however, the majestic tree—a Cedar of Lebanon—just behind the Main Entrance, was preserved. This tree was brought from Palestine, and it was planted at the entrance of the Cemetery in 1850.¹⁰



Original Main Entrance to the Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery, as shown in a booklet published by the Cemetery in 1918.^{11, 12}

The Cedar of Lebanon is visible behind the Gate Houses.

The map of 1772, which shows the area before the Cemetery was built, shows a mill race extending along the side of the Brandywine River from a dam on the left side of the map [shown as near Broome Street on the 1868 map] to several mills near Brandywine Village. Thus, this mill race predated the construction of the Cemetery.¹

The map of 1847 shows the Cemetery ending at Mill Street. And the maps of 1868 and 1874 show the Cemetery extending all the way to the mill race, with Mill Street gone.

Today, however, there is an additional feature between the Cemetery and the mill race: South Park Drive. Thus, South Park Drive must have been constructed sometime after 1874.

It seems that South Park Drive was constructed in the late 1800s and definitely before 1918:

Midtown Brandywine – Located on the banks of the Brandywine River, Midtown Brandywine is bordered by North Washington Street, East 11th Street, North French Street and South Park Drive. Homes in the neighborhood were first established in the late 1800s as the Brandywine River became home to several mills and trading posts. Midtown Brandywine's boundaries include the Brandywine Park, Fletcher Brown Park, the Hercules building, a neighborhood adopted pocket park, and several notable restaurants and eateries. The neighborhood is also home to "The Little Church", previously known as The Old Presbyterian Church. Originally built on Market Street between 9th and 10th streets, the gambrel-roofed church was relocated to its current site on South Park Drive in 1917 and has since become synonymous with Midtown Brandywine.¹³

As Wilmington grew, the area that Old First Presbyterian was located in was being renovated, so the church was slated for demolition. In 1918, the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in DE and the Society of Colonial Wars in DE stepped in to save the church by moving it to its present location along the Brandywine Creek.¹⁴

Other changes to the streets surrounding the Cemetery are of interest, but they did not have a significant effect on the Cemetery, itself. For example, the 1874 map shows Washington Street ending at the Brandywine River. This street now leads to the Washington Street Bridge, which was completed in 1922.¹⁵

Another, perhaps more significant, change to the area around the Cemetery was the construction of Interstate 95 through Wilmington in the mid-1960s.¹⁶ At that time, several streets around the Cemetery were rearranged. Adams Street remained pretty much as it was, as did Wawaset Street and Lovering Avenue. However, Shallcroft and Gilpin Avenues were both truncated at I-95.

1 From: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brandywine_Creek_\(Christina_River_tributary\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brandywine_Creek_(Christina_River_tributary)): The Brandywine crosses the Fall Line just north of Wilmington. The elevation falls from about 160 feet above sea level in Chadds Ford, to just a few feet above sea level in Wilmington. The steep descent powered many early industrial activities, including flour milling and the original DuPont gunpowder mills, while the navigable channel to the Delaware River and Delaware Bay allowed manufacturers to load ocean-going ships from near their mills.[*citation needed*]

By 1687, a Swedish colonist, Tyman Stidham opened the first mill on the Brandywine, near Wilmington. About 1735, Brandywine Village was founded across the creek from Wilmington. Quakers Elizabeth Levis Shipley, her husband William Shipley, and Thomas Canby were important in establishing the village and its supporting flour mills. By 1743, a dam and a millrace south of the creek had been built.

In 1760, a bridge was built at the current site of the Market Street Bridge, and the north race and two more flour mills were built by Joseph Tatnall.

Note. The maps of 1868 and 1921 show a Roman Catholic Cemetery adjacent to the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery. A brief history of that cemetery follows:¹⁷

In May 1852, this parcel of land was purchased by Bishop (now Saint) John N. Neumann of Philadelphia. From the early 1850s through the late 1870s, this was the primary cemetery for Wilmington's Catholics. Those buried here represented all walks of life, from leather workers and housekeepers to elected officials and prominent businessmen. Some Civil War era soldiers were buried here, including Medal of Honor recipient Bernard McCarren. Though the majority of those interred were of Irish descent; there were also many other ethnicities represented, including German, Swiss, African American, Polish, and English.

By the early 1880s, Old Cathedral Cemetery had fallen into disrepair and church officials began urging parishioners to move their departed loved ones to a new cemetery on Lancaster Avenue. By the mid-1950s it was assumed that all remains had been removed and the property was sold to the Delaware Hospital for use as a parking lot. When the lot was excavated in 1998 the remains of more than 2,000 individuals were discovered. After respectful and painstaking disinterment by a large team of archaeologists, the remains were reinterred.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilmington_and_Brandywine_Cemetery

² <https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/21/cemetery-offers-lasting-history/7989693/>

³ <https://delaware.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15323coll6/id/40712>

⁴ <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3833n.la000070a/?r=0.701,0.716,0.229,0.145,0>

⁵ <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/map/rumsey/4622.005>

⁶ Adapted from: www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/8786/

⁷ <https://www.historicpictoric.com/products/map-1921-wilmington-delaware#mz-expanded-view-995138627020>

⁸ <https://christianacare.org/facilities/wilmingtonhospital/history-of-wilmington-hospital/#:~:text=The%20hospital%20was%20named%20the,Early%20surgery%20at%20Wilmington%20Hospital.>

⁹ wilmingtonbrandywinecemetery.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/wbc_booklet.pdf

¹⁰ *Delaware: A Guide to the First State (The American Guide Series)*, WPA Federal Writers' Project, Hastings House, June 1938, paragraph 54:

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_WPA_Guide_to_Delaware/O0_pCAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq="wilmington+and+Brandywine+cemetery"+"cedar+of+lebanon"+1850+"Palestine"&pg=PT246&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_WPA_Guide_to_Delaware/O0_pCAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=)

¹¹ "Constitution, Act of Incorporation and Amendments to the Charter of the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery", Wilmington, Delaware, 1918: <https://www.franklinmason.com/PDFs/W&BC%20-%201918%20Constitution%20Final%20Booklet.pdf>

¹² <https://www.franklinmason.com/PDFs/W&BC%20-%201901%20Charter%20Amended%20Final%20Booklet.pdf>

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilmington,_Delaware

¹⁴ <https://www.greatamericantreasures.org/destinations/the-little-church-old-first-presbyterian/>

¹⁵ https://deldot.gov/environmental/archaeology/historic_pres/bridges/pdf/br_576.pdf

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_95_in_Delaware

¹⁷ <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=10916>