

PH#363472

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 16 1976  
DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

BRANDYWINE PARK

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*roughly bounded by Augustin...*  
Southeast of Eighteenth Street & Northeast of Park Drive & *Lovering Ave.*  
Lovering Ave., between the Augustine Bridge and the  
Market Street Bridge

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CODE

10

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

Delaware

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Wilmington

STREET & NUMBER

Public Building

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Public Building

STREET & NUMBER

Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Survey of Historic Sites & Buildings, N-1566

DATE

1974

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Because of their topography, the lands immediately adjacent to the Brandywine River were not readily developed and have been preserved relatively intact, retaining the use which they have had from Wilmington's establishment, that of a recreational area. Known first as the Brandywine Glen and after the establishment of a park system as Brandywine Park, the park lands blend well with the surrounding city while providing the open space area that every city requires.

The park stretches between the Market Street Bridge and the Augustine Bridge and extends to 18th Street on the north and Park Drive on the south. Upon entering the park at its southeastern end, Park Drive runs between the river and the south mill race. The race is one of the few remnants of a once-great milling industry complex located just below the Market Street Bridge. It still serves the Wilmington Water Works. Park Drive passes the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington at the foot of West Street. The church was removed to the park in 1918 to ensure its preservation. Opposite the church is the McKinley Memorial, a cast bronze bas-relief set in a stone alcove. Originally erected in 1908, it was moved here from another site in the park in 1962. The drive then passes under the Washington Memorial Bridge (1920), in itself one of the finest monuments in the park. From here the park widens out to the north as the river curves. The mill race throughout this upper park is spanned by wooden foot bridges. At the foot of Adams Street is the Old Barley Mill Stone. The mill that stood on this site was on the King's Road. At this point, the old road crossed the Brandywine. Playgrounds for smaller children are also located in this area.

Crossing Van Buren Street, a change in the landscape of the park can be sensed. It is more wooded and a progressively steeper hill is found on its southern border. Eventually, Park Drive winds its way out into the city streets. The park land continues, however, and can be wandered on foot. This is a scenic wooded area.

The end of the park is marked by three bridges. The westernmost of these was built as a railroad bridge. When it was abandoned by the railroad in 1910, the city rebuilt it as a roadway. The new railroad bridge was erected just a few yards to the east of the old one. It is faced with stone; its piers are connected by elongated arched openings. Below these bridges is a steel suspension footbridge. From this footbridge, the visitor is able to view the gently flowing Brandywine as it is criss-crossed by its several bridges.

From the footbridge, one enters the northern park. Glen Avenue runs the length of the park terminating near the three bridges at the entrance to a small industrial site. The land to the north of the drive is very steep and rocky at this point. As one travels east on Glen Avenue, the park begins to widen out to the south. Clearly visible is the service gate at the head of the north race. It was closed in 1950 but its path is still visible throughout the park.

The series of elliptical arches is the most striking feature of the I-95 overpass. Glen Drive passes under it just before it reaches the Van Buren Street Bridge. Piers support long low arches on the Van Buren Street bridge. Just to the west of the street is the Rose Garden. It was begun in 1933 as a relief project. There were eight hundred rose bushes planted here; at one time it was considered to be one of the best in the country. Just to the east of Van Buren Street is a garden of a different kind, called the Josephine Garden. A large fountain erected in memory of Josephine Tatnall Smith is flanked by two double rows of Japanese cherry trees. Both the trees and the fountain were the gift of Col. J. Ernest Smith in 1933.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT *Frederick Law Olmsted*

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As an example of landscape architecture, Brandywine Park is one of the finest in Delaware. Indeed, when it is compared with other parks of its size in this country, there are few which surpass it in natural beauty. It is laid out in the mode so enthusiastically advocated by Frederick Law Olmsted, the famous nineteenth-century landscape architect. As Wilmington's first city park, it also has significance in the area of city planning.

The land along the Brandywine has always been used as a recreation area by the citizens of Wilmington. It was not until 1868, however, that the establishment of a park was considered. The interest in this proposal stemmed from the interest in park planning taking place in Europe and America at the time.

In Victorian Europe, economic and social forces were working towards providing a better environment for the masses. The landscape movement no longer restricted itself to the wealthy but displayed itself in the establishment of public parks. At the same time, the east coast of this country was beginning to feel the loss of its wilderness. Cities were crowded with immigrants who had never known the wealth of natural landscape offered by this land. The American landscape architect began to take the lead in the movement. Men such as A. J. Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted led the new landscape movement, central to which was the establishment of public parks.

The criteria of men such as Olmsted and Downing were used by the 1868 committee that examined the land along the Brandywine. They found it to contain all the elements which were required to make a park beautiful: "trees, uneven grades, slopes, water, drives, walks, concourses, entrances, labyrinths, music stands, lawns, greens, playgrounds, etc." The Brandywine would be the central core of all this scenic beauty. They concluded that "no city in the land has such a stream in its Park, and neither can they, with all their lavish expenditure of money, build one that can compare with it."

For more than a decade as the park movement grew in the United States, no action was taken on the Wilmington park. Then in 1883, the state legislature passed a bill providing for "Public Parks for the use of the citizens of Wilmington and vicinity, and creating a Board of Park Commissioners to take the care and management of such lands as would be acquired under the provisions of the act."

Once established, the Board of Park Commissioners immediately consulted with Frederick Law Olmsted. Olmsted, after viewing the possible park sites, enthusiastically recommended that the land along the Brandywine be obtained for a park. This area far surpassed other sites which would have been adequate as parks in other cities. In his report, Olmsted advised that in order to assure the success of the Brandywine Park project, all discussion of the related Rockford Park project be suspended. He felt that "with every advantage that a lavish outlay may buy, it cannot in fifty years be made nearly as valuable..." a parkland.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Zebley, Frank R. Along the Brandywine. Wilmington: By the Author, 1940.
- Report of the Park Commissioners, Wilmington, Delaware, 1905. Wilmington: John M. Rogers Press, 1906.
- Bryant, William Cullen, ed. Picturesque America. Vol. I. New York: D. Appleton Company, 1872.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 175 acres

E: 18/453345/4399850

UTM REFERENCES

F: 18/453400/4400030

A 

1,8	4,5,2,6,7,0	4,4,0,1,2,8,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B 

1,8	4,5,2,0,2,5	4,4,0,1,0,6,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C 

1,8	4,5,2,5,5,0	4,4,0,0,4,5,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D 

1,8	4,5,2,9,7,0	4,4,0,0,0,6,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at Market Street near the Market Street Bridge and running along the south side of the south race until it intersects the lot which contains the Old First Presbyterian Church, then south and west to include this lot, crossing West Street to include the lot with the McKinley Memorial, then north to the south side of Park Drive, continuing therewith and including two small strips of land to the south of Park Drive, until it intersects Adams Street then up the west side of Adams until it intersects the south side of Wawaset Street and continuing therewith until it crosses Van Buren Street, then with the west side of Van Buren

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan M. Norton, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

June 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

(302) 678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Lauren C. [Signature]*

TITLE : Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

7/12/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attest:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/22/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/20/76

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At Van Buren Street, access can be obtained to the upper park. Going up the old cobblestone street, The Children's Zoo is located just to the east along Glen Avenue. The upper park is located on the flat ridge above the creek bed. Here are located several playgrounds, ballfields, a stadium and an open meadow.

The edge of the parkland is Eighteenth Street. It extends as far as Washington Street. In the triangle formed by Eighteenth Street, Washington Street, and Baynard Boulevard stands this memorial to those who served in World War I. It is known as the William H. Todd Memorial after its donor, a Wilmingtonian who built a shipyard in Brooklyn. A Statue of winged victory on a pedestal stands in front of a thirty-five foot high obelisk surmounted by an urn. They are set in a semi-circular platform banked behind by trees. In front of this is a parade ground where Washington is said to have reviewed the troops during the Revolution. The parade ground slopes down to the Washington Memorial Bridge. The monument was dedicated in 1925.

Below the Washington Street Bridge to the west is a natural amphitheatre once used for public meetings; to the east, the park narrows along park drive as the river draws closer to the steep embankment. On the far side, a residential area spreads out to the north while to the south the river runs very close to Glen Avenue until it intersects with Market Street at the Market Street Bridge.

The rich foliage and overwhelming natural beauty of Brandywine Park as well as its historical association with Frederick Law Olmsted, create a city park of which Wilmington has a right to be proud.

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In 1886, after the legislature amended its original bill to provide a method of obtaining funds, the first purchases of land were made. Samuel Canby, the first president of the Board of Park Commissioners was appointed to engineer the laying out of the park. Canby consulted with Olmsted; the plan he created certainly reflected many of Olmsted's ideas. Canby's plan enhanced the natural beauty of the park, the landscape which had initially impressed Olmsted. Wilmington was fortunate in that this area had never lost its natural wilderness. Canby added roads, paths, and walks blending them inconspicuously into the park landscape. Of prime importance was the preservation of the river and of the mill races. The south race has remained as a tribute to the industrial history of Wilmington. The bridges which cross the park add to its beauty. They are themselves works of art, pieces of engineering sculpture. Other pieces of sculpture have been placed in the park as memorials. Among them are: the bas-relief of President McKinley (1908); the William H. Todd Memorial dedicated to those who served in World War I (1925) and the fountain in the Josephine Garden (1932-4). Symbolic of the milling industry that was so much a part of the history of Wilmington is the old Barley Mill Stone, embedded at the foot of Adams Street where the mill once stood. A zoo was established in the park as early as 1905. It was situated in a natural amphitheater where Clay, Calhoun and Webster once addressed meetings. The Tatnall's Woods Area of the park now has a children's zoo in about the same location.

Wilmington has grown up around Brandywine Park and it has had an effect on the city's planning. Every effort has been made to preserve it in its natural state. Recently, when it became known that a highway overpass was to cross the park, a fierce battle ensued. Although the highway was built, the overpass was designed in a way to blend with the other forms of bridge engineering in the park. The park today, as from its inception, is central to the recreational activities in the city and has many ball fields, tennis courts and playgrounds. Most importantly, it has preserved the open space that has become so essential to living in a city. It is, in fact, one of the finest legacies that the City of Wilmington could have been left by its forefathers.

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Street, until it intersects the south side of Lovering Avenue and then therewith until it intersects with the centerline of the Augustine Cut-Off, then north following the Augustine Cut-Off until it intersects with Eighteenth Street and then with the centerline of Eighteenth Street until it intersects the centerline of Washington Street, then south with the centerline of Washington Street then south with the centerline of Eighteenth Street until it intersects the centerline of Sixteenth Street, and then therewith east until it intersects Glen Avenue, continuing along the north side of Glen Avenue until it intersects Market Street at the north side of the Market Street Bridge and then with Market Street to the south side of the bridge and place of beginning.