

Gift of Mrs. D. Anthony
Potter, Lewes, Del.
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A GUIDE
TO
SOME HISTORIC POINTS
IN
DELAWARE

1916



Compiled by
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA
IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE

A GUIDE TO SOME HISTORIC POINTS IN DELAWARE

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

The 3 counties of Delaware were originally (1) New Castle; (2) St. Jones; (3) Hoorne Kill or Deale. These were subdivided into 33 Hundreds. Delaware is the only State retaining name Hundreds in its ancient meaning dating from time of King Alfred.

WILMINGTON

Wilmington, originally called Willing-town, founded 1731. From Hotel du Pont south on Market St.:

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Market St., near Tenth; built 1740. Tombstones:

*Gov. John McKinley, "First President of the Delaware State;" also a stone pillar "erected by the bounty of John McKinley."

Gunning Bedford, the younger; born 1747. U. S. District Judge appointed by Washington. Attorney General of Delaware; member of Continental Congress 1783-87; framer of the Constitution.

James Adams, the first Delaware printer.

Robert Frame, Attorney General of Delaware, born 1800; died 1847.

House 604 Market St. In 1813 the residence of Louis McLane, born 1786; U. S. Congress and Senate 1827-29; Secretary of Treasury 1831; Secretary of State 1833; Minister to England 1829. First occupied by Gunning Bedford. French officers quartered here during Revolution.

OLD CITY HALL, 1798; Market St., below Sixth.

BANK OF DELAWARE, Cor. Sixth and Market Sts., 1795. Oldest Bank in Delaware.

* As we go to print, these tombs are being removed.

HIGHLIGHTS *of*
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
1832 ***** 1932

*Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of
the Granting of the CORPORATE CHARTER
to the Borough of Wilmington by
the Delaware State Legislature*



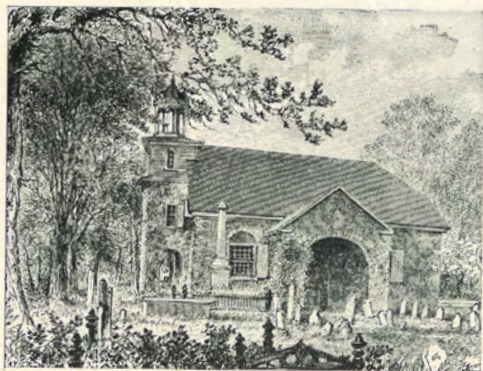
CHARTER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
May 15th to 21st, 1932

EARLY WILMINGTON CHURCHES

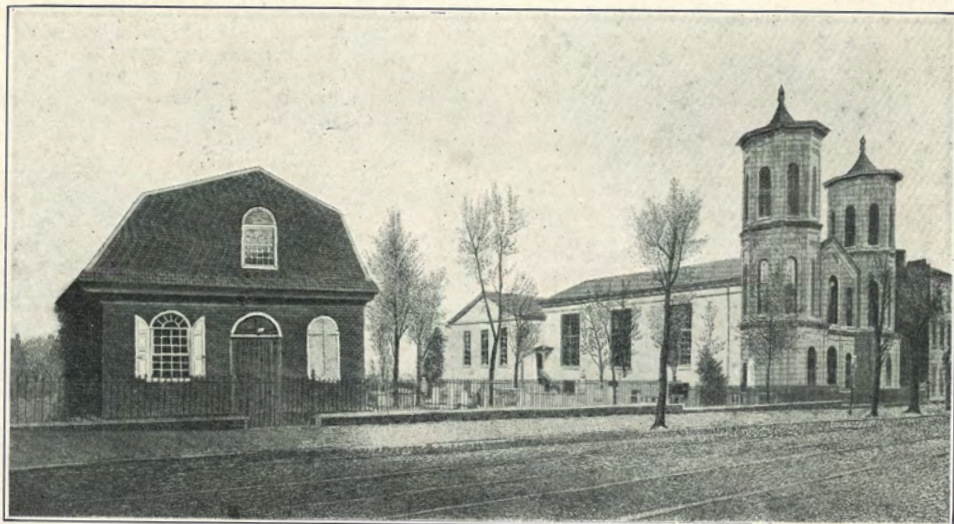
THE first Catholic Church in Wilmington was St. Peter's, which was founded in 1816, at the same location it occupies today, Sixth and West Streets. It was not the first Catholic Church in this vicinity, however. St. Mary's, known as "Coffee Run" Church, seven miles west on the Lancaster Pike, preceded St. Peter's. The exact date is not known, although datings in the cemetery go back to 1786.

The Baptists made their first appearance with the settlement of "The Welsh Tract," below Newark. The pioneer congregation in Wilmington was the First Baptist Church, organized in 1785, and located on King Street between Tenth and Eleventh. The first Methodist church in Wilmington was Asbury, at Third and Walnut. It was built in 1789. Richard Bassett, signer of the Constitution of Delaware, was one of its early members.

Holy Trinity Swedish Lutheran Church, "Old Swedes," built in 1698 as a Lutheran church. Later, after the colony came under English control, it was made Episcopalian.



Old Swedes Church, dedicated in 1699



First Presbyterian Church. Old Church built 1740; New Church built 1840. Ninth to Tenth Streets, on Market

Wilmington

A Pictorial History

by Carol E. Hoffecker

Design by Jamie Backus Raynor
Donning Company/Publishers
Norfolk/Virginia Beach



Two Presbyterian churches on Market Street between Ninth and Tenth streets, built one hundred years apart. The 1740 church was moved to its present location along the Brandywine at the foot of West Street when the Wilmington Institute Library was built on its original site following World War I. The 1840 church was demolished during the 1920s to make way for the expansion of the Delaware Trust Building. The congregation then merged with that of Central Presbyterian to build a new church at the northwest corner of Eleventh and Market streets. Courtesy of the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

The Judge Gray House, Fourteenth and Market streets, demolished in the 1970s to make way for a parking lot, was the last of four gracious early-nineteenth-century houses that once occupied the block. Each was the home of a child of James Price, a wealthy miller. George Gray, a jurist, lived here while he served as U.S. Senator from Delaware in the years 1885 to 1899. Courtesy of the Historical Society of Delaware.



Wilmington

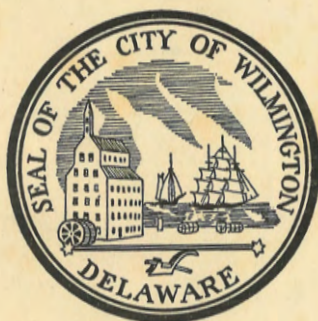
DELAWARE

Three Centuries Under Four Flags

1609-1937

By ANNA T. LINCOLN

Curator HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE



6088

RUTLAND, VERMONT

THE TUTTLE PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

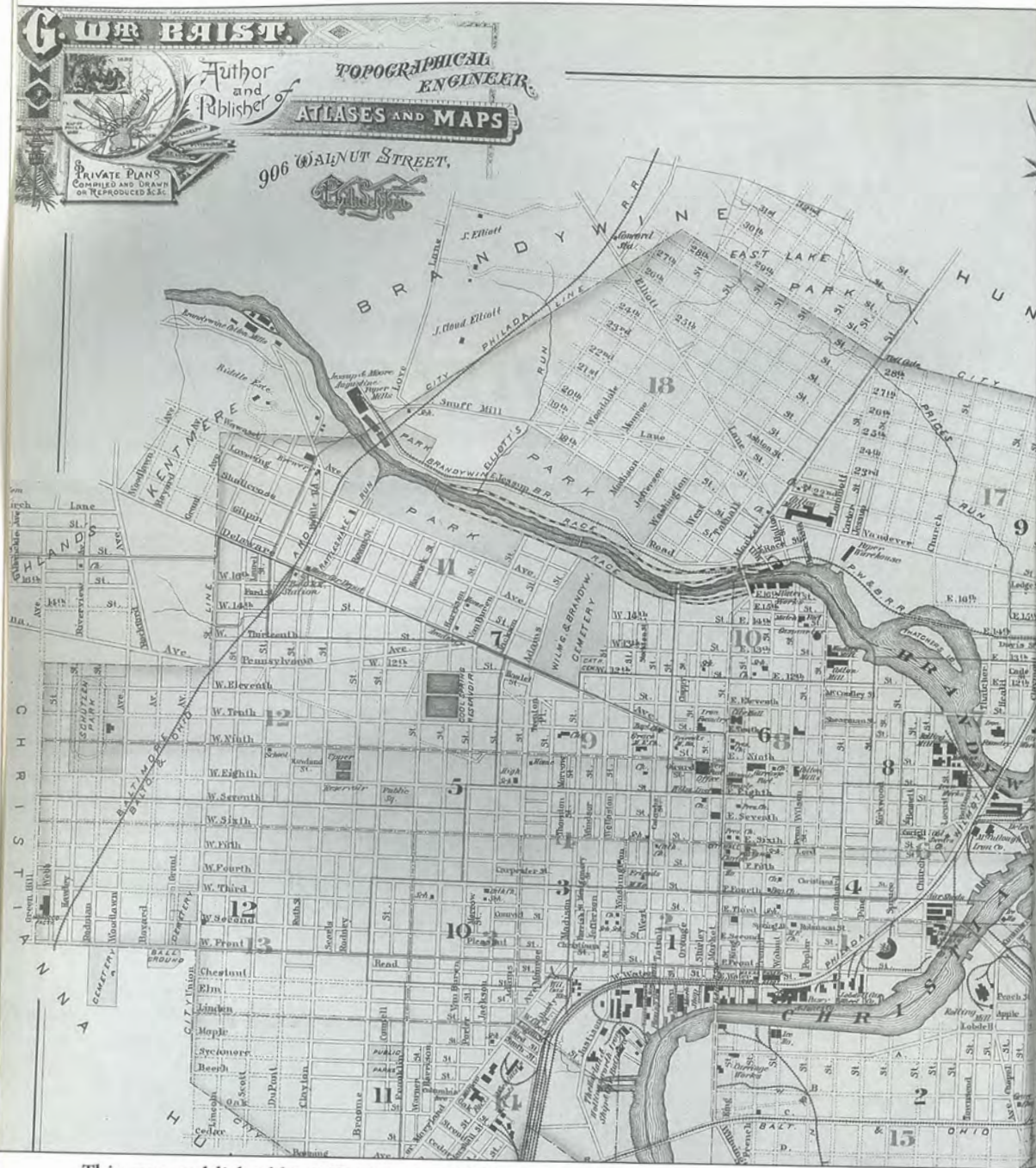
DOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY
DOVER, DELAWARE

15766

was erected on the opposite side of West Street. This was forty-eight feet square, an odd-looking structure with a truncated pyramidal roof. Used until 1816, it was then torn down and the present building erected. In 1827, when the teachings of Elias Hicks divided the Friends on certain matters of doctrine, the Orthodox group being in the minority, moved out leaving the building to the majority, hereafter termed Hicksites. The Orthodox Friends built a place of worship at the corner of Ninth and Tatnall streets. Here amid a group of fine old trees, it presented as peaceful a scene as the doctrines upheld by the members. In 1915, the building was sold and another was erected at the southeast corner of Tenth and Harrison streets.

Next in order of time, the Presbyterian Meeting House, popularly called Mr. Cannan's or McKennan's Church was built. In 1737, an acre of ground was purchased from Timothy Stidham, and in 1740, the house was dedicated to the worship of God. The lot was bounded on the south by the Road to the Rocks, which ran a little more toward the southeast than does the present East Ninth Street. Until near the close of the eighteenth century, the church-yard was entered from this Road, as it was used much more in those years than Market Street. A row of linden trees bordered the path which led to the Meeting House door. They had been planted under the direction of Mrs. James Hemphill, an ardent supporter of the Church. The property extended from Market to King, and northward to Chesnut, now Tenth Street.

At first the Church was without a pastor, but from 1740 to 1756, Reverend Robert Cathcart was a stated supply and in 1759, Reverend William McKennan began to supply the pulpit. He divided his time from 1760 to 1795 with the Red Clay Creek Church, having been released probably from White Clay Creek Church. The First Church sent a call to the Reverend Joseph Smith in 1771 to supply the portion of the time that McKennan was absent. He accepted and the Church seemed to flourish, but soon the friends of Mr. Smith wanted the undivided labors of their favorite, to the exclusion of the senior pastor. A contention arose and the friends of Mr. Smith withdrew and built at the corner of Fifth and Walnut streets, the Christiana Church. This was dedicated October 24, 1772. It was a popular meeting-place and here the memorial service for Washington was held. Popular



POSTCARD HISTORY SERIES

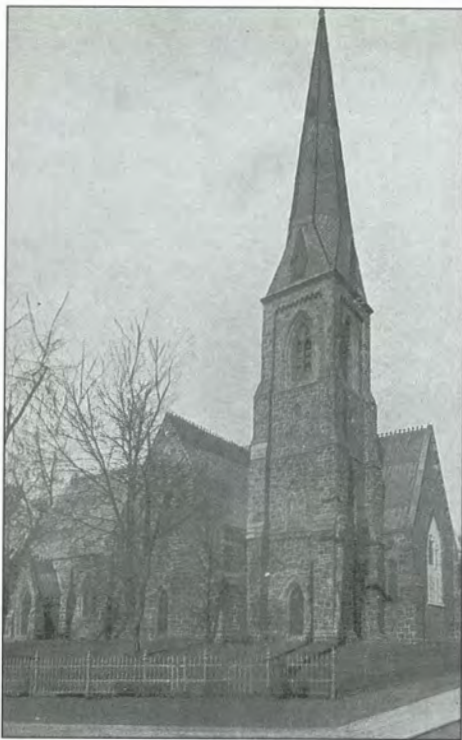
Wilmington

IN VINTAGE POSTCARDS

Marjorie G. McNinch

This map published by G.W. Baist in 1887 in his *Atlas of the City of Wilmington, Delaware and Vicinity* shows the city of Wilmington's development along the Christina and Brandywine Rivers. Shipbuilding, the railroad, and heavy industry along the Christina River. Market Street from river to river is the most densely populated area of the city. At the turn of the 20th century, scenes along the rivers and major streets would be depicted on postcards, bringing to life this thriving city. (Courtesy of the Hagley Museum and Library.)



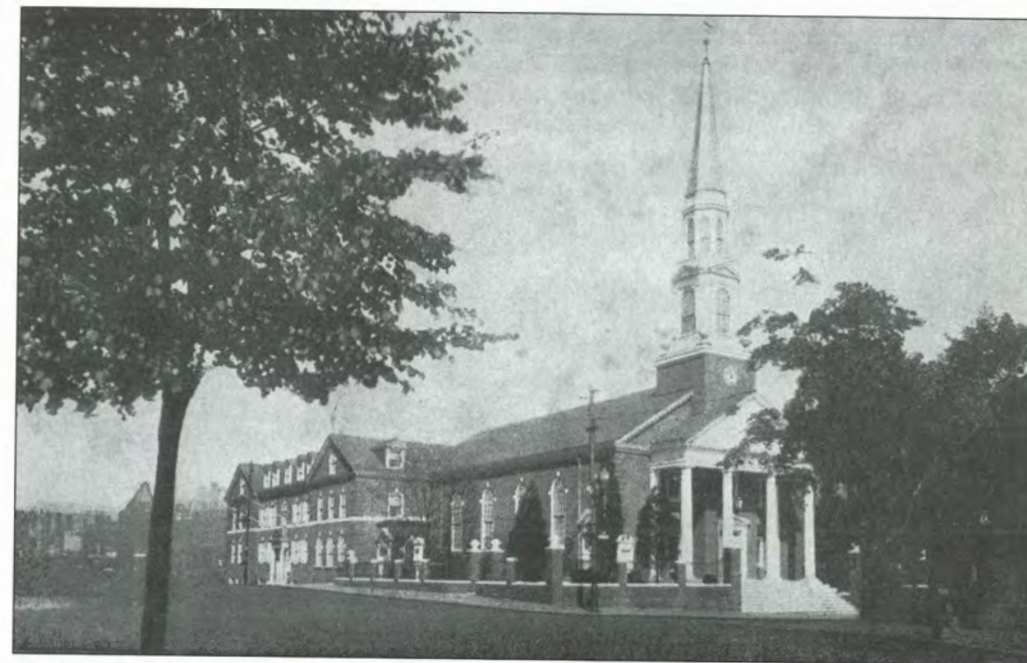


St. John's Episcopal Church was built at the corner of Market Street and Concord Avenue in 1857 on the site of the Green Tree Inn, a longtime gathering place for the Brandywine Village coopers. Alexis I. du Pont was a major contributor to the church and chose John Notman, a Philadelphia architect of Scottish descent, to design it. The Gothic architectural style of the church was much like that at Delaware Avenue and Adams Street, making use of Brandywine granite.



The Presbyterian Church was the third denomination to become permanently established in New Castle County. The Wilmington Presbyterians built a small brick Meetinghouse on land they purchased at Tenth and Market Streets in 1740 and also laid out a graveyard. One hundred years later a bigger church was built at the site with the smaller church becoming a Sunday school, and in 1878, it was leased to the Historical Society of Delaware. In 1916 the property was sold to the Wilmington Institute Free Library, and the graveyard remains were reinterred at the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery. The Meetinghouse was moved to Brandywine Park in 1922. (Courtesy of the Hagley Museum and Library.)

Hanover Presbyterian Church became the Second Presbyterian Church in 1772 and moved from Fifth and Walnut Streets to the Corner of Eighteenth and Baynard Boulevard, a neighborhood known as Washington Heights, where it still functions as a church. (Courtesy of the University of Delaware Special Collections.)



The First and Central Presbyterian Church was formed by a merger that took place in 1919. By 1928 the congregation had purchased the Draper property at the northwest corner of Eleventh and Market Streets, and the new church was dedicated over a six-day period in the fall of 1930. The church is equipped with numerous rooms for activities associated with social work. The First and Central Presbyterian Church continues to play a prominent role in the life of residents around Rodney Square Park. (Courtesy of the University of Delaware Special Collections.)

Wilmington...

On the Move



A sleek Amtrak Acela arrives at the historic Wilmington Train Station.

Photography by Mike Biggs/Text by Lise Monty

Designed by Simpson Studio, Inc.

Published by Miller Publishing, Inc.
Wilmington, Delaware



and dignified, this small church once served as a hospital and later gave up its site for a library. It was built in 1740 on 10th and 11th Streets as Wilmington's first Presbyterian Church just after the city received its charter from King George II. Following the Battle of Brandywine on September 2, 1777, the British used the church as a hospital. In 1916, it was moved to its present location at the corner of West Street overlooking the Brandywine River to make way for construction of the Wilmington Institute Free Library. Home of the Daughters of the American Revolution, it is open to the public from 2 to 4 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month from April through October.

THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

FRANK R. ZEBLEY

Author of "Along the Brandywine"



*A history, in brief, of the nearly 900 churches
and former churches in Delaware as
located by the Author.*

1947

authorship of the famous "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania" and the fact that he was a founder of Dickinson College.

Beginning about 1916 the Hicksite and the Orthodox Meetings frequently met together for business, for worship and to celebrate historical events which emphasized their common origin. The two Monthly Meetings first met together to discuss mutual concerns on Sept. 16, 1932. In May, 1938, they joined in celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the building of the first Friend's Meeting-House in Wilmington. In November, 1938, the two Meetings joined for worship. The Meetings were held at 4th and West Sts., from October to June and at 10th and Harrison Sts., from June to October. The two Monthly Meetings have been joined since January, 1942.

The two groups of Friends in Wilmington decided to merge, on May 18, 1945, under the name "The Wilmington Monthly Meeting of Friends." Their first services as a united group were held at Fourth and West Sts., on May 20, 1945.

The Friend's School at Alapocas was developed by the Friends from the little school at 4th and West Sts., founded in 1748.

Wilmington Orthodox Friend's Meeting. In 1827, at the time of the separation in the Religious Society of Friends, the Hicksites kept possession of the Meeting-House at 4th and West Sts. The Orthodox members built a frame Meeting-House, in 1828, at the n. e. cor. of 9th and Tatnall Sts. This building was two stories in height, faced 9th Street and there was a wide front porch. The site was enclosed with a high brick wall. In 1832-33, Samuel Canby donated additional land and built a one-room frame schoolhouse. The school had been established in June, 1831 at 11th and Market Sts. A second room, of brick, was added in 1874. The property at 9th and Tatnall Sts. was sold on Oct. 30, 1913 and on Nov. 24, 1914 the site at the s. e. cor. of 10th and Harrison Sts. was purchased. The stone Meeting-House was built in 1915 and it was opened for services in the autumn of that year. The Orthodox and Hicksite Friends in Wilmington later joined for all services. Meetings were held at 10th and Harrison Sts., from June to October and at 4th and West Sts., from October to June.

After deciding to merge, on May 18, 1945, the two groups of Friends held their first united meeting on May 20, 1945, at Fourth and West Sts.

The following notation appears in the Journal of George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends: "Justice Bennett of Derby was the first that called us Quakers because I bid them tremble at the word of the Lord. This was in the year 1650."

PRESBYTERIAN

The First Presbyterian Church, The First-Central Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterians in Wilmington, on Dec. 30, 1737, purchased from Timothy Stidham an acre of land at the s. e. cor. 10th and Market Sts. In 1740, a small brick meeting-house was built and a graveyard was laid out. This church had a high pulpit with a large sounding-board and the seats had high straight backs. The church was used as a hospital for wounded American prisoners after the battle of Brandywine. It was incorporated on Dec. 23, 1789 and Dr. John McKinly, the first President of Delaware, was elected one of the trustees. In 1799, Dr. McKinly donated 100 pounds to provide a low stone wall around the property. In 1772, a group of members had withdrawn from First Church and built the Second or Christiana Church at Fifth and Walnut Sts. In 1838, they sold their church to the German Baptists and returned to First Church.

With this increased membership and interest it was decided to build a new church facing Market St. and south of the old church. The corner-stone was laid on May 7, 1840, the church's centennial year. The old church was used as a Sunday School and a day-school. The day-school was conducted by Miss Mary Mahaffy and Mr. Thomas. The first floor was used for the girls and the second floor for the boys. The last service of any kind was held in the old church on Jan. 17, 1878. It was then rented to the Historical Society of Delaware. The Historical Society occupied the building until 1917 when it was moved to South Park Drive and West St. to become the headquarters of the Colonial Dames of Delaware.

The second church was completed and occupied in 1840. In 1867, an aftermath of the Civil War and the formation of the Southern Presbyterian Church, led to two First Church congregations for two years. One met in this church and the other met in the old First Baptist Church at 1008 King St. After extensive repairs, reopening services were held on Dec. 30, 1877. The manse at the s. e. cor. 10th and Market Sts. was built at this time. The 150th Anniversary celebration was held during the first week in November, 1887. After renovations, reopening services were held on Sun., Sept. 10, 1899, by the Rev. James A. Worden, D.D.

In 1916, the Tenth St. front, 90 feet deep was sold to the Wilmington Institute Free Library. This necessitated the reinterment of many bodies. The marble vault containing the remains of Dr. John McKinly, the first President of Delaware, was moved to the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery. It was here that a large number of bodies were reinterred. The centennial celebration of the Sunday School was held on Nov. 26, 1916. The project of merging First Church and Central Church took definite shape at a meeting held on Oct. 31, 1919. The merger was effected on Mar. 3, 1920 under the name "First-Central Church." In 1923, an auditorium was built north of the church on the King St. side of the lot. It was used as a Sunday School and for social purposes. The entire property was sold in 1929 to make room for the Delaware Trust Building. The last service was held on Feb. 24, 1929.

On Dec. 24, 1928, the congregation purchased the Draper property at the n. w. corner 11th and Market Sts. During 1929 and until Sept. 28, 1930 they worshipped at 502 Delaware Ave. and in the New Century Club.

The corner-stone of the present church was laid on July 28, 1929. The dedication services continued from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3, 1930. The dedication service was conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Aquilla Webb and the sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Lewis S. Mudge, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. This church property including more than fifty rooms is probably the best equipped in the State of Delaware for every activity associated with church work.

Second,-Christiana,-Hanover Presbyterian Church. The Second Presbyterian Church was organized in 1772 by a large group of members from First Church. The first pastor was installed on Oct. 25, 1774. On Oct. 26, 1781, the Rev. Wm. Smith and a board of trustees purchased the lot on the s. w. cor. of Fifth and Walnut Sts., comprising 6215 sq. ft. from Matthew Crips, potter, for 30 pounds. A stone church was built on this site. It had an old-fashioned high pulpit, a brick paved aisle, the door was two-leafed and circular topped and there were galleries on three sides.

The church was incorporated and the name "Christiana" was adopted on Jan. 29, 1788. Dr. Thomas Read, noted for the assistance he gave to Washington previous to the Battle of Brandywine, served the church from Jan.