

WILMINGTON

WALKING & DRIVING TOUR



ABOUT THESE TOURS

Inside you will find six tours of Wilmington, each designed to show you a special corner of the historic, cultural, architectural and artistic landmarks of the city. The tours run in a south to north, or east to west direction. Each tour has a beginning, a suggested route, and a finish point. We hope, however, that you will pick and choose, skip around, or go in reverse, if it suits your fancy. Whatever your style, we hope you will enjoy the complementary blend of old and new that gives our city its heritage and its future.



EARLY WILMINGTON

Begin this tour on East 7th and Church Streets, where you will find **FORT CHRISTINA AT THE ROCKS, 1**. Here upon a ledge of rocks above the banks of the Christina, the first Swedish expedition landed in March, 1638. Commanded by Peter Minuit, the Swedes built Fort Christina, and named it for the Queen of Sweden. This was the first permanent European settlement in Delaware.

In the park is a column topped by a replica of the colonist ship, Key of Kalmar, sculpted by Carl Milles for the Tercentenary Celebration in 1938. Nearby stands a small log cabin built by the Aldrick family who were Swedish settlers in the early 18th century. The cabin was built at Prices Corner and moved to Fort Christina Park in 1962.

Next to the Rocks is **OLD SWEDES CHURCH (HOLY TRINITY CHURCH), 2**, constructed in 1698 by Swedish Lutherans. The church is a rectangle with a brick floor, gray stone walls, and a wood shingle roof ending in hooded gables. The south porch was added in 1750. The gallery with outside stairs was built in 1774. In 1791, the Swedish jurisdiction of the parish ended and Old Swedes Church became Protestant Episcopal. The church's

most prominent feature, the Bell Tower, was added in 1805. The main structure was restored for its Bicentennial in 1899. Old Swedes continues as part of Trinity Parish.

On the same site stands **THE HENDRICKSON HOUSE, 3**, built in 1690 in Ridley Township, Pennsylvania for Andrew Hendrickson, a young Swedish farmer. The house was dismantled and moved in 1959 to Wilmington where it was restored and now serves as a library, museum and office for Old Swedes Church. Next to Hendrickson House is an amphitheater and plaza created as a community development project.

At 6th and Pine Streets, **ST. MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 4**, was constructed in 1858 by the Order of the Most Reverend John Neumann, who was recently elevated to Sainthood. From 1975 to 1977 the church was remodeled and re-dedicated including a sculpture of St. John Neumann.

ASBURY CHURCH, 5, at 3rd and Walnut Streets has been called the "Cradle of Wilmington Methodism." It is the Pioneer Church of United Methodism here. The original building was

dedicated by Bishop Francis Asbury on October 10, 1789. The church has been greatly altered since its construction. Captain Allen McLean (1746-1820), a major with Washington during the Revolutionary War, is buried in the graveyard.

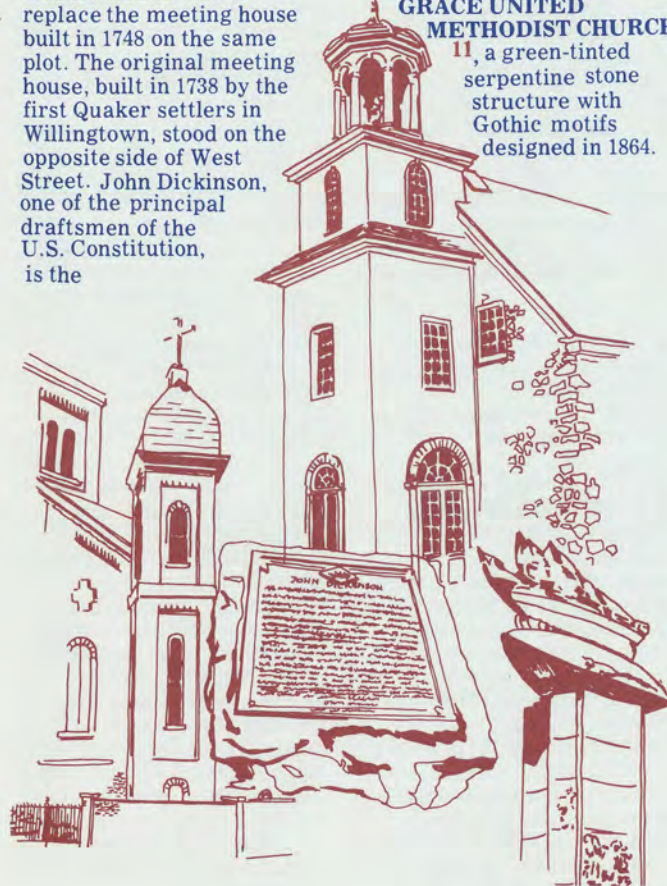
At 4th and West Streets is the **FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, 6**. With its burial ground, it occupies the whole block bounded by West, Washington, 4th and 5th Streets. The red brick building facing West Street was erected in 1816 to replace the meeting house built in 1748 on the same plot. The original meeting house, built in 1738 by the first Quaker settlers in Willingtowntown, stood on the opposite side of West Street. John Dickinson, one of the principal draftsmen of the U.S. Constitution, is the

most famous among those buried in the graveyard. Standing in the church yard you can see to the west, **UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 7**, dedicated in 1865.

On the northeast corner at 5th and West Streets is **ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, 8**. The church with the accompanying convent was the first Roman Catholic Church in Wilmington. The original building, constructed in 1816, was enlarged in 1832 and remodeled in 1905.

The **WEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 9**, with its ottoman minarets, at 8th and Washington Streets, was dedicated in 1871. East on 8th Street at Shipley stands **ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 10**, established in 1829.

At 9th and West stands **GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 11**, a green-tinted serpentine stone structure with Gothic motifs designed in 1864.



THE OLD TOWN

This tour takes you to the heart of the original Borough of Wilmington (chartered in 1739) and its commercial center, chartered in 1832. The railroad was fundamental to the city's early prosperity. Today the **WILMINGTON RAILROAD STATION, 1**, sits astride a roadway first laid down for the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company in 1837. The present Frank Furness designed station, the third at this location, was built in 1907. A dominant feature is the Queen Ann style clock tower.

Across from the Station on the corner of Front and Walnut Streets is the **CAPTAIN THOMAS MENDENHALL HOUSE, 2**. Built in the late 18th century by a successful sea captain and merchant, the house once looked out upon a ship-filled Christina River.

In the open area on Second Street between King and Market, once stood one of Wilmington's original **MARKET HOUSES, 3**. Built by Thomas Willing, it also served as Borough Hall from 1774 until 1798.

On the opposite side of Market Street is handsome brownstone building that once was the **WILMINGTON AND BRANDYWINE BANK, 4**.

One block north on the same corner is the first **WILMINGTON BRANCH, OF THE FARMER'S BANK OF DELAWARE, 5**. This classical Greek revival structure was built in 1914.

As you go up lower Market Street, you will see many buildings dating from the 19th century. They show the diversity and growth of the city's architecture. **JOSHUA CONNOR AND SON, 6**, at 235 Market was established in 1848 and has occupied this

site since then. Now in the 5th generation of family ownership, it is probably the oldest family-run retail business in the city today.

Across Market Street on the southeast corner is where a series of famous taverns including the **SIGN OF THE SHIP, 7**, hosted Washington, Jefferson, Lafayette, Samuel Adams, Aaron Burr, and many other travelers.

Down Third Street and on the northwest corner of King is the first **ODD FELLOWS HALL, 8**, to be built in Wilmington. Before the Civil War, it was the city's main auditorium where many dramatic and musical performances were held.

At 4th and Market Streets at the beginning of the pedestrian mall, are two **VICTORIAN BUILDINGS, 9**, that were once proud sentinels of a thriving street. The **WILMINGTON DRY GOODS store, 10**, known for its unique merchandising, is the last of several dry goods stores to occupy this block since the early 19th century.

At 6th and Market is **McCREADY'S FLORIST SHOP, 11**, an outstanding example of Victorian architecture. It was built in 1886 with a cast iron front, copper sheathing on the upper bay windows, and a corner turret.

Diagonally across the street are the remaining outer walls and bricked-up windows of Wilmington's finest 19th century hotel — **THE CLAYTON HOUSE, 12**. When it opened in 1871, it was five stories high with several parlors and sitting rooms, 105 bedrooms and a bath on every floor.

At this same intersection stands a large red sandstone structure, the **OLD BENEFICIAL BUILDING, 13**, built in 1889 by the Central National Bank.



Next door is the **WILLINGTOWN GARDEN CENTER, 14**. It was opened in 1977 in the reconstructed home of a 19th century Wilmington printer.

The **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE, 15**, at 505 Market Street has been a dominant force in the revitalization of this part of the city. The offices and library occupy a former bank building designed in the Art Deco style.

WILLINGTOWN SQUARE, 16, stands as a major preservation effort undertaken by the City of Wilmington and the Historical Society to save early houses of the city. Willingtown Square is the permanent home of four relocated structures built by local craftsmen according to local design.

The first house in the Square is the **DR. SIMMS HOUSE, 16a**. Built in the late 1770's, the house was occupied throughout most of the 19th century by Dr. John Simms and his son, both doctors, who used the house as a residence, office and apothecary.

The two **DINGEE HOUSES, 16b**, facing the square were built by Obadiah Dingee

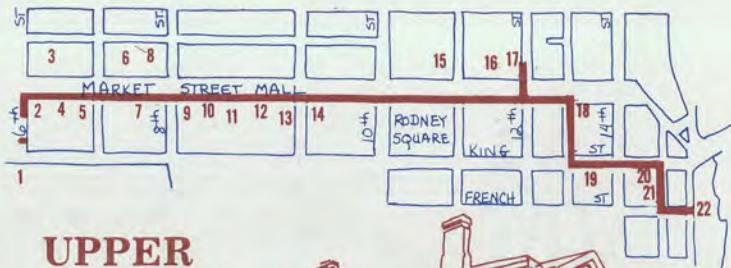
around 1800. The Dingee men were joiners, carpenters and cabinetmakers in Wilmington.

Next door is the **ZACHARIAH FERRIS HOUSE, 16c**. This two-story brick building featuring a belt course and brick inscription was built in the early 1730's.

The **THOMAS COXE HOUSES, 16d**, originally stood in the 100 block of East 7th Street. Coxe, a stone mason, built them in 1801 for his daughters and their husbands.

Across the Market Street Mall from Willingtown Square is Wilmington's **OLD TOWN HALL, 17**. The Historical Society Museum is here. Old Town Hall was built in 1798 in a Georgian Federal style. The building was used as Borough and City Hall until 1916 when it was acquired by the Historical Society.

The Frank Furness designed **BANK OF DELAWARE BUILDING, 18**, was built in 1908 of red sandstone. It is a significant Edwardian structure with arched windows, mansard roof and textured stone courses.



UPPER MARKET STREET

Begin this tour at 6th and King Streets, where you will find the **U.S. CUSTOMS HOUSE, 1**, with its imposing iron front. This building was designed in 1855 by Ammi B. Young, pre-eminent American interpreter of classical revival architecture. Next, you should note at 600 **MARKET STREET, 2**, the art deco design of this building, is highlighted by the bronze doorway sculptured in relief. At 605 to 609 Market Street stands the former **CROSBY AND HILL DEPARTMENT STORE, 3**. Built around 1900, its facade is divided in thirds with lettering in the parapet.

One of Wilmington's historic landmarks, the **LOUIS McLANE HOUSE, 4**, stands at 606 Market Street Mall. With a history steeped in legend, this building is said to have been the headquarters of the French during the American Revolution. Caesar Rodney's niece reputedly acted as hostess for the house during that time. The house was later owned by Gunning Bedford, Jr., one of the signers of the U.S.

Constitution and the first U.S. District Court Judge to be appointed by George Washington. Louis McLane, U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State under Andrew Jackson, lived here during the early 19th century.

The recently remodeled structure that stands at 614-620 **MARKET STREET, 5**, was built in 1896 by the Snellenberg family, leading Wilmington merchants.

As you walk up the Market Street Mall, note the variety of building fronts. **OSCAR'S, 6**, has retained the elegant facade of the building that was once Reynold's Candy Store. Across the street at 710 **MARKET STREET, 7**, you can view a handsome copper-faced bay window. The facade at 713 **MARKET, 8**, features a stone sculptured shell.

GOVATOS, 9, has occupied the 800 Market Street site since 1906. Govatos candy factory, which was once located at 4th and French Streets, was the largest

candy manufacturer in the Delaware area in the early 1900's. **802 TO 804 MARKET STREET, 10**, was once Ainscow's restaurant and tavern, a favorite gathering place for Wilmingtonians in the early 1900's.

The restored **GRAND OPERA HOUSE, 11**, stands as the most significant example of Victorian architecture in Delaware. Designed by Charles L. Carson of Baltimore, it was erected as a temple by the Masons in 1871. The building was acquired from the Masons by the Grand Opera House, Inc., and restoration of the magnificent cast iron facade began in 1972. The Grand has been recently named Delaware's Center for the Performing Arts. Note the Masonic eye and the lettering in the center of the facade.

The **OLD GARRICK THEATER, 12**, in the middle of the block was a popular vaudeville stage in the early 1900's.

The **WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY BUILDING, 13**, and across 9th Street, the **DELAWARE TRUST BUILDING, 14**, were built in the 1920's. The WSFS art collection includes a 19-by-60 foot mural by N. C. Wyeth and eight paintings by Frank Schoonover. The Delaware Trust Building was once owned by one individual, William du Pont, reportedly without a mortgage.

Inside the **HOTEL DU PONT, 15**, are two elegant restaurants, the Brandywine Room and the Green Room. The mahogany panels of the Brandywine room are lined with paintings by Andrew Wyeth and his father N. C. Wyeth, the illustrator. Included in the collection is "Island Funeral," by N. C. Wyeth. A hand-carved wooden ceiling graces the Green Room. Huge, hand-carved oak doors and a curved marble staircase lead to the Gold Ballroom.

The **WILMINGTON CLUB, 16**, stands as a well-preserved example of the revival in Italian renaissance architecture during the Civil War era. Built in 1864, its ground floor windows are set off with balustraded balconies. Recessed front gardens are guarded by brownstone walls. The **WILMINGTON TOWER, 17**, was designed by architect I. M. Pei so that no interior columns or posts are necessary in its structure.

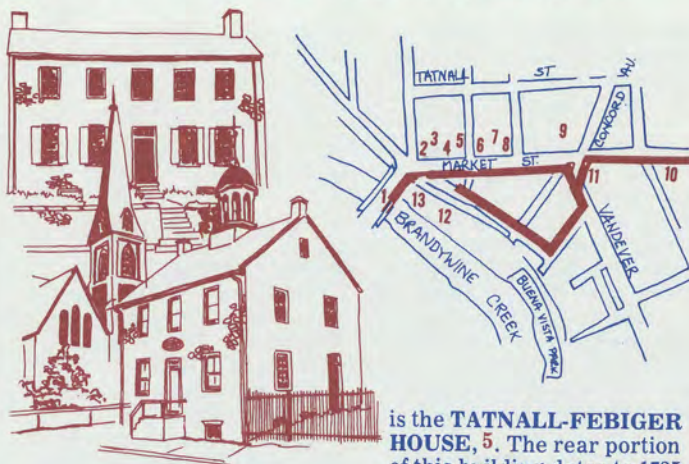
The **BENEFICIAL BUILDING, 18**, to your left was constructed of pink Pennsylvania marble in 1952.

One block east, you will find the **STARR HOUSE, 19**, at 1310 King Street. Marble front steps, marble face trim and ornamental interior mantels highlight the house built in 1804 by a prosperous marble worker. Captain Thomas Starr, for whom the house is named and its most famous tenant, used the Brandywine River as home port for his fleet of vessels carrying flour all over the world. The steeple of **ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 20**, draws you to the corner of 15th and King Streets.

Behind St. Patrick's Church is **WINKLER'S RESTAURANT, 21**, the lower dining room of which was once a livery stable. The central section of the restaurant served as a tavern and stage coach stop in the late 1800's. Nearby is the Wilmington Police Stable, built in 1805 to house Water Department carriages and horses.

The **WATER DEPARTMENT PUMPING STATION, 22**, at the Market Street Bridge was designed by Theodore A. Leisen, water works superintendent who also designed Rockford Tower. This station reflects the influence of the Chicago Fair and also the popularity of classic architecture in public buildings.

OLD BRANDYWINE VILLAGE



Brandywine Village was a tiny but prosperous flour milling center that brought fortune to Wilmington in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The **MARKET STREET BRIDGE, 1**, built in 1928, is the sixth bridge since 1760 to span Brandywine Creek at this site.

Along the northwest side of Market Street stand several handsome stone houses that were originally homes of mill owners. They have been faithfully restored and updated for modern day uses as part of Old Brandywine Village, Inc.

The **LEA-DERICKSON HOUSE, 2**, is the oldest of the mill houses, built in the 1770's. It served as the residence of Thomas and Sarah (Tatnall) Lea until 1830 when it was sold to Jacob Derickson. The Junior League of Wilmington, Inc., has its headquarters here.

Next door stands the **JOSEPH TATNALL HOUSE, 3**. This house served as headquarters for General Mad Anthony Wayne in 1777 before the Battle of the Brandywine. George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette were frequent visitors to the Tatnall home.

The **EDWARD TATNALL HOUSE, 4**, was built in the 1850's. Completing the block

is the **TATNALL-FEBIGER HOUSE, 5**. The rear portion of this building dates to 1735 but the main front section was added by Joseph Tatnall about 1807.

At 1901 Market stands the **HOME OF WILLIAM LEA, 6**, Wilmington's last important miller. It now houses the Wilmington Senior Center.

The **WILLIAM SMITH, 7**, and **NEWLIN-HAYES, 8**, Houses share a common wall and an arched alley.

The **GOTHIC-STYLE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, 9**, built in 1857 on the site of the "Green Tree Inn," is today the seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. **BRANDYWINE METHODIST CHURCH, 10**, at 22nd and Market was built of stuccoed brick in the same year.

On Vandever Avenue, a few steps east of Market Street, stands the **BRANDYWINE ACADEMY, 11**. Built in 1798, it served as a church for both Episcopalians and Methodists while their churches were being constructed. The belfry was added in 1820.

Proceeding south on Buena Vista Street and west on Race Street, you will see to the left **THREE BRICK STRUCTURES, 12**, that were part of the milling complex. Along the north river bank you can find the foundations of many of the **EARLY MILLS, 13**.

PUBLIC FACILITIES HOURS AND ADMISSIONS

FORT CHRISTINA PARK

Tuesday-Saturday 10:30-4:30
Sunday 1:30-4:30 FREE

OLD SWEDES CHURCH

Tuesday-Sunday 12-4 FREE

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Monday-Friday 9-2
Groups by Appointment FREE

WILMINGTON GARDEN CENTER

Monday-Friday 9-5 FREE*

DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

Tuesday-Friday 9-5
Monday 1-9 FREE

WILLINGTOWN SQUARE

Open for Special Exhibits
See Town Hall Hours FREE

OLD TOWN HALL

Tuesday-Friday 12-4
Saturday 10-4 FREE*

CUSTOMS HOUSE

Monday-Friday 9-5 FREE*

GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Wednesday 12-3
Groups by Appointment FREE
Call Mr. Gallagher (658-7897)

BRANDYWINE ACADEMY

By Appointment Only
Call Mrs. Esham (798-4336) FREE

COLONIAL DAMES HOUSE

By Appointment Only
Call Mrs. Everett (655-2631) FREE

BRANDYWINE ZOO

Daily 10-4 FREE*

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Monday-Friday 9-5 FREE*

DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

Monday-Saturday 10-5
Sunday 1-5

Adults \$1.00
Youth \$.50
Under 12 Free*

WILMINGTON INSTITUTE FREE LIBRARY

Monday-Thursday 10-9
Friday & Saturday 10-5 FREE*

HOTEL duPONT

Dining Rooms open to guests

*Public Restrooms available

CREDITS

This booklet was designed, written, and published by the Historic Areas Committee of the Greater Wilmington Development Council. It was financed in part by grants from the City of Wilmington, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, and the Penjerdel Foundation. Production assistance and funds were also received from several area businesses and institutions. The authors recognize that space did not permit the mention of hundreds of other important sites in Wilmington. Apologies are extended to those that were missed. It is hoped that this booklet will encourage the creation of a more comprehensive tour guide for the entire Greater Wilmington area. In any event, thanks are extended to all who participated.

THE BRANDYWINE

This tour takes you along the banks of the Brandywine Creek and to nearby Wilmington landmarks.

Plans for **BRANDYWINE PARK, 1**, which included preservation of the natural areas along the creek banks for swimming, skating and picnicking, began in the 1860's when U.S. Senator Thomas F. Bayard supported a formal park plan. In the 1880's, a donation of 80 acres along the Brandywine Creek by William P. Bancroft prompted the formation of a city park commission with responsibility for further development of the area. Frederick Law Olmsted, creator of New York City's Central Park, designed a formal plan for Brandywine Park that included drives, benches, picnic areas, and street lighting. Brandywine Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

Driving west from the Market Street Bridge on South Park Drive, you can see the **COLONIAL DAMES HOUSE, 2**, to the left. Built in 1740 as the First Presbyterian Church at 10th and Market Streets in Wilmington, the structure was moved in 1919 to its current site. The Wilmington Public Library now stands in its place facing Rodney Square.

The **WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE, 3**, crosses high above South Park Drive. Built in 1920, this bridge was preceded by a bridge constructed in the 1890's that carried trolley passengers from center city to residential areas north of the Brandywine Creek.

The **WILMINGTON AND BRANDYWINE CEMETERY, 4**, is situated on a heavily wooded tract. The cemetery was established in 1845 under the leadership of Samuel

Wollaston, a prominent Wilmington citizen for whom a city street was named. Over 19,000 graves, including those of many Civil War soldiers, are located here.

At the foot of Adams Street on South Park Drive is an old **MILLSTONE, 5**, saved from the days when milling was a flourishing industry in Wilmington. The first grist mill was built in 1640 by Ashmond Stidham near this site. Mills were later established on both sides of the Brandywine Creek. The deteriorated dam construction of a barley mill built in 1765 can still be found at the foot of Adams Street. This mill was painted by Robert Shaw, a popular Wilmington artist, who traveled throughout the Brandywine Valley near the turn of the century in a horsedrawn buggy with painting supplies with him.

Evidence of the **RACEWAY, 6**, which provided water power for those early mills, can be seen on the southern side of the creek. The long south race, built in 1762, provided power for four flour mills at tidewater in Brandywine Village. The long north race, purchased by the City of Wilmington in 1922, has been filled in.

ADAMS STREET, 7 was known in the 1800's as the Old King's Highway. It was originally an Indian trail and a post road in colonial times. At the foot of Adams Street was once an early ford over the Brandywine Creek.

HAPPY VALLEY, 8, a compact and prosperous residential community, lies on the southern side of the creek. The community was named after the "Happy Valley Summer Retreat," an inn operated by Jacob Starr in the 1850's. Most of the houses in Happy Valley were constructed in the late



19th century; building had been accelerated by development of the trolley line from the center of town past this area on Delaware Avenue. Many of the original houses in Happy Valley are currently undergoing extensive renovation.

The **PLAYGROUND, 9**, at the corner of Adams and Wawaset Streets is the site where an 1897 bathhouse

(today known as a swimming pool) once stood. At the height of its popularity, the bathhouse accommodated more than 26,000 bathers annually.

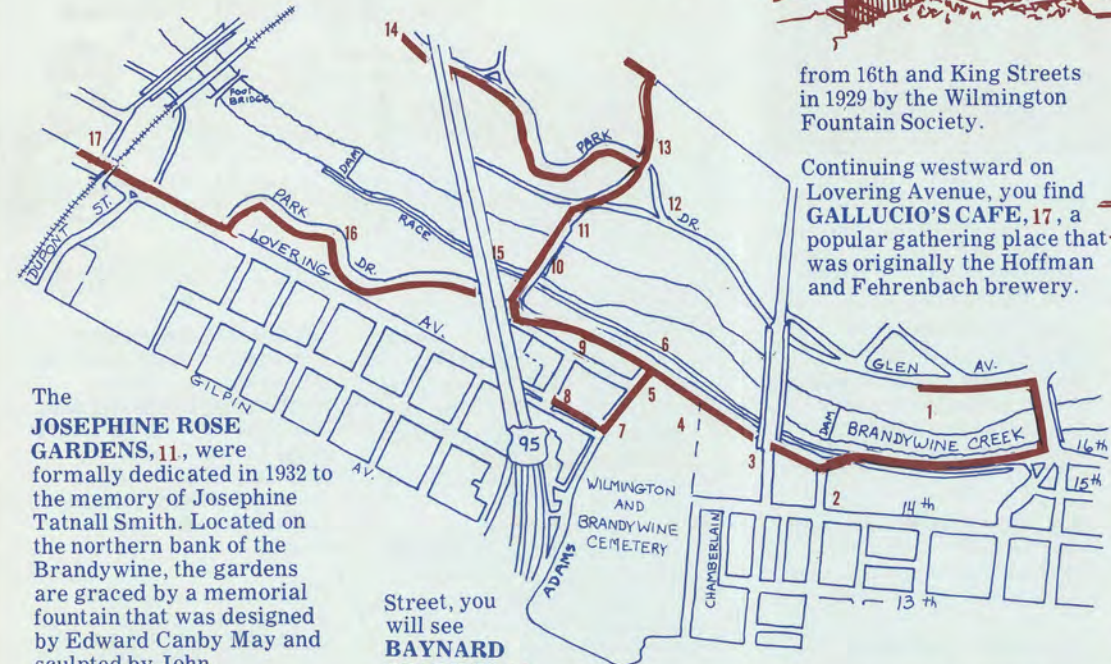
The **VAN BUREN STREET BRIDGE, 10**, provides a convenient creek crossing for local traffic and also carries an aquaduct that transfers water from Porter Reservoir to the city's pumping station.

The **JOSEPHINE ROSE GARDENS, 11**, were formally dedicated in 1932 to the memory of Josephine Tatnall Smith. Located on the northern bank of the Brandywine, the gardens are graced by a memorial fountain that was designed by Edward Canby May and sculpted by John Brockhouse. Surrounding the Gardens are many cherry trees planted in the 1930's.

Approximately 140 animals reside in the **BRANDYWINE ZOO, 12**, established in 1904. A children's section was added in 1954 under the sponsorship of the Wilmington Lion's Club.

The steep, cobblestone road leading up the hill from the zoo was laid in 1923 and named **MONKEY HILL, 13**, after the monkey house in the zoo. The hill is a favorite winter sledding slope for city children.

As you turn left on 18th



Street, you will see **BAYNARD STADIUM, 14**, on your left. To return to the southern bank, follow Stadium Drive back through the park to the Van Buren Street Bridge.

After returning over the Van Buren Street Bridge, turn right on South Park Drive. Look up and you will see the towering **BRIDGE, 15**, which carries I-95 traffic across the Brandywine. This bridge has been acclaimed for its complementary and aesthetic design.

Continue west on South Park Drive and you will see a stone fountain fed by a **NATURAL SPRING, 16**. This fountain was dedicated in 1909 by the National Humane Alliance relocated

from 16th and King Streets in 1929 by the Wilmington Fountain Society.

Continuing westward on Lovering Avenue, you find **GALLUCIO'S CAFE, 17**, a popular gathering place that was originally the Hoffman and Fehrenbach brewery.

At the corner of Lovering and Scott Streets stands the **DELAWARE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, 18**. Built in the Federal style with Flemish bond brickwork, this structure was erected in 1816 as the Bank of Delaware at the corner of 6th and Market Streets in Wilmington. It was moved in 1931 to its present site.

Follow tree-lined **KENTMERE PARKWAY, 19**, west until you come to the **DELAWARE ART MUSEUM, 20**, on the right. The Museum's permanent collection and its many special exhibitions vary from classic to last-minute modern.

Just beyond the Art Museum on Rockford and Ivy Roads stand 41 **OLD MILLHOUSES, 21**. These houses have been restored and modernized by a group of private citizens. Workers for the **BANCROFT MILLS, 22**, lived here while they worked the mills along the creek bank.

Situated between Rockford Village and the Art Museum is the handsome **BANCROFT MANSION, 23**. Once a private residence, it is now an elegant restaurant.

At the western extreme of Rockford Park stands the Wilmington Water Tower now known as **ROCKFORD TOWER, 24**. Built in 1899 it was opened to the public in 1902 as an observatory and still continues to provide important water service to the northwestern section of the city. The Du Pont Company experimental station can be seen from this point. A statue of **ADMIRAL SAMUEL FRANCIS DU PONT, 25**, a local hero of the Union Navy during the Civil War, guards the entrance to Rockford Park.

CITY SQUARES

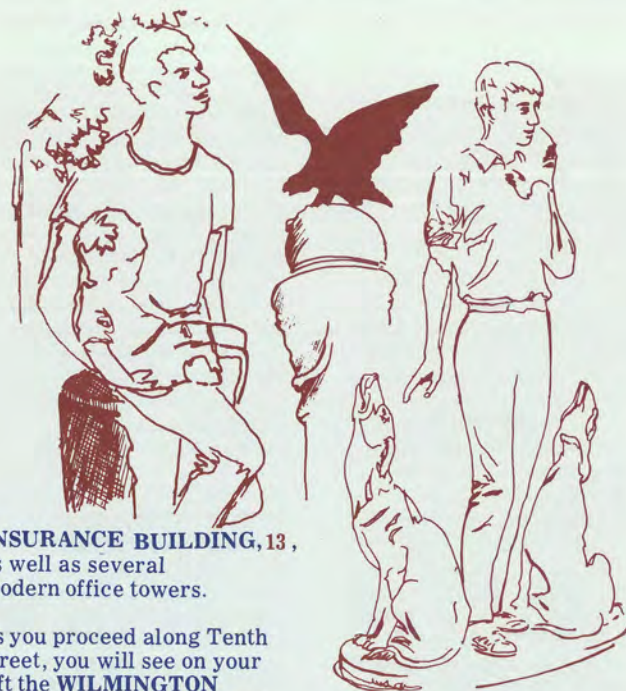
Wilmington is blessed with a host of handsomely landscaped squares. Begin your tour at the double square formed by **PETER SPENCER SQUARE, 1**, and **FREEDOM PLAZA, 2**, which straddle the 800 block of French Street. These squares are surrounded by a complex of modern office buildings. The western exposure is dominated by a Charles Parks statue dedicated to Peter Spencer, founder of the Mother A.U.M.P. Church. The church building occupied the site from 1813 until 1970 when it was razed to make room for the **DELMARVA POWER BUILDING, 3**, and the **FEDERAL CUSTOMS HOUSE and OFFICE BUILDING, 4**. Freedom Plaza is flanked by the **CITY-COUNTY BUILDING, 5**, and the **DELAWARE STATE BUILDING, 6**. Within Freedom Plaza is "Holocaust Memorial," by Elbert Weinberg; it is dedicated to the six million Jews who perished at Nazi hands during World War II.

One block north and west is Wilmington's most popular gathering place, **RODNEY SQUARE, 7**. It was built in 1919 where the County Court House once stood. The square is dominated by the James Kelly statue of Caesar Rodney. Rodney, Delaware's Revolutionary hero, rode to Philadelphia in July 1776 to cast Delaware's deciding ballot for independence.

Facing Rodney Square from the south is the **PUBLIC LIBRARY, 8**, which was constructed in 1922. The architectural firm of Githens & Tilton received the American Institute of Architects' gold medal award for their design of this building. On the east is the former **PUBLIC BUILDING 9**, completed in 1916; on the north is the **POST OFFICE, 10**, built

in 1937 and to the west stands the **DU PONT BUILDING, 11**, sections from 1907 to 1931. It houses the home office of the Du Pont Company, the Playhouse and the reknown Hotel duPont. No visit to Wilmington is complete without a tour of the lobby, the public dining rooms and the Gold Ballroom of the Hotel. The elegance of the ballroom is highlighted by a crystal chandelier.

Adding a last dimension to Rodney Square are the **FIRST AND CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 12**, and the **CONTINENTAL AMERICAN LIFE**



INSURANCE BUILDING, 13, as well as several modern office towers.

As you proceed along Tenth Street, you will see on your left the **WILMINGTON TRUST BUILDING, 14**, and **EDEN HALL, 15**, which when it was built in 1889 was the tallest building in town. The **NEMOURS BUILDING, 16**, on your right was erected in 1936. Pocketed between the high buildings is **BRANDYWINE PLAZA, 17**, built on the old bed of Tatnall Street. Across Delaware Avenue where the First Baptist Church once stood is the **BANK OF DELAWARE BUILDING, 18**.

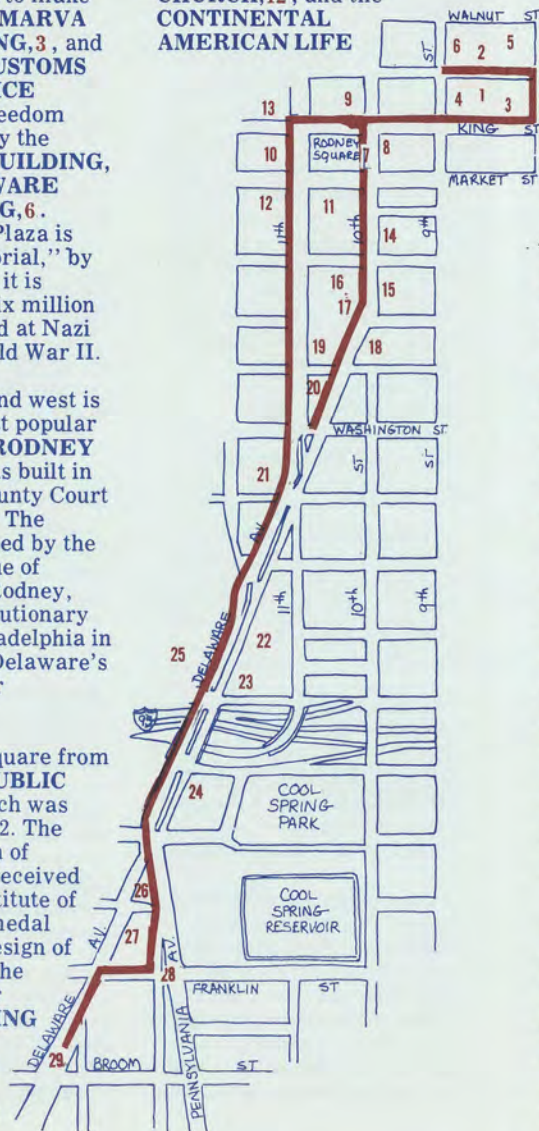
At the head of Delaware Avenue stands the imposing **BRANDYWINE BUILDING, 19**, designed by Vincent Kling and completed in 1971. At the building's base is nestled **H.B. DU PONT PARK, 20**. This inner-city park, created in a design of interlocking circles, squares and triangles by Edward R. Bachtle, was completed in 1976.

As you walk along Delaware Avenue, you pass the **CENTRAL YMCA (1929), 21**, the **IBM BUILDING, 22**, located on the site of the old Wilmington High School, **TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1889), 23**, and the **NEW CENTURY CLUB**

(1892), **24**. Many of Wilmington's war heroes are buried in the **WILMINGTON AND BRANDYWINE CEMETERY, 25**, across the street.

At the juncture of Delaware and Pennsylvania Avenues is **FOUNTAIN PLAZA, 26**, a restful triangular park given to the city by H. Belin du Pont. A Charles Parks statue of a boy and his dogs grace the fountain-filled center. Behind the park rises the **LUTHER TOWERS** apartment building, **27**, built in 1969.

Several steps up Pennsylvania Avenue, you can view the stately statue of **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, 28**, sculpted by Egidio Giorili of Italy. Around the corner and up Delaware Avenue stands the **SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT, 29**. This column, later topped with the bald eagle, was originally part of a Philadelphia bank building designed by Benjamin Latrobe. It was brought to Wilmington in 1871 to commemorate Wilmington's Civil War dead.



WILMINGTON

WALKING & DRIVING TOUR

WILMINGTON'S PLACE IN HISTORY

We welcome you to Wilmington and hope that through these six tours you will help us celebrate the city today as well as its 350 year history.

Wilmington stands where the first permanent settlement in the Delaware Valley was made by the Swedes in 1638. They called their settlement Christinaham. The town prospered under the Swedes, but in 1655 it was conquered by the Dutch and renamed Altena. Dutch control was short lived, however, as the English took control in 1664. In 1731 Englishman Thomas Willing established the beginnings of a village on the Christina River, about a mile upstream from the original Swedish settlement at Fort Christina. The village became known as Willingtown, and in 1739 England's King George II granted a charter to the people of "the borough of Wilmington." Almost a hundred years later in 1832, Wilmington was chartered as a City by the Delaware legislature.

