

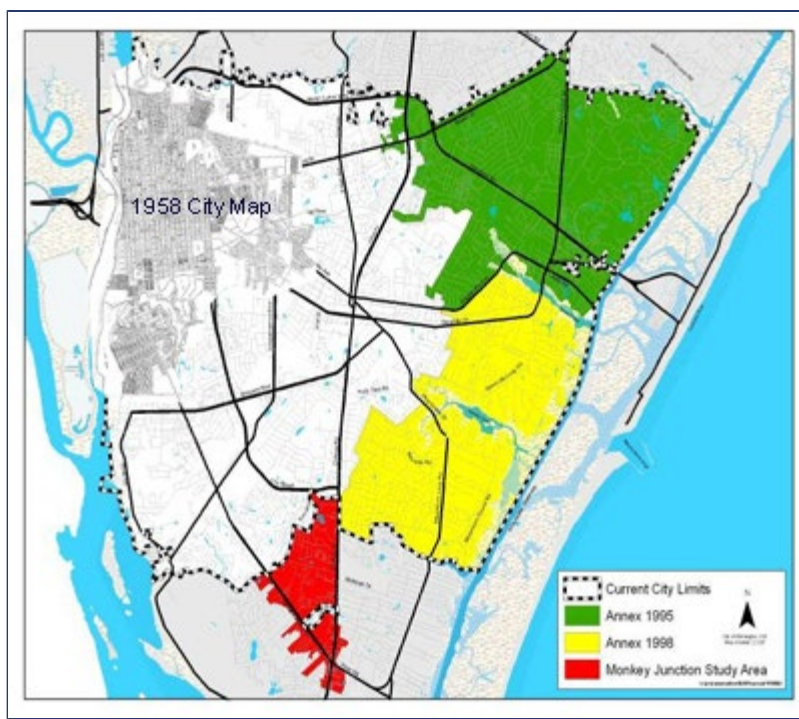
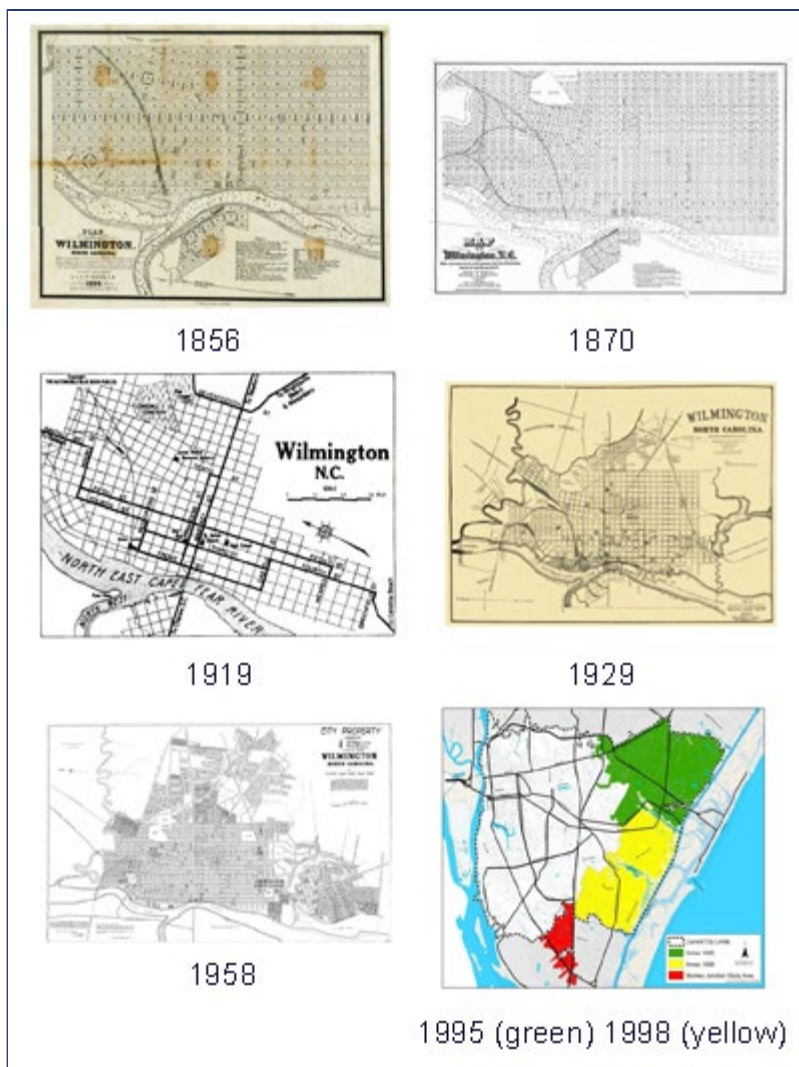
Wilmington Annexation History

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Blogging about the Winter Park Fire Department and [their history yesterday](#) made me curious about the history of the city's annexations. Might there be, say, some maps showing the annexation history over time? Such as the maps that Yours Truly uses in his [Raleigh Fire Department timelines](#)? Google finds [this draft document](#) of an annexation policy, dated February 2010. It contains some pretty good information. Here's how the city expanded, from the document:

- 1733 - First laid out.
- 1739 - Incorporated.
- 1856 - Map shows city reaching to Oakdale Cemetary, and extending from river to Market Street in near rectangle
- 1870 - Map shows rectangle expanding to beyond cemetary to 17th Street to west and Smith Creek to north. By this this decade, Wilmington is largest town in North Carolina, and one of the most important on eastern seaboard.
- 1919 - Map shows departure from linear nature of expansion of city, with corporate developments following Burnt Mill Creek.
- 1929 - Ditto.
- 1945 - After this year, land development patterns change dramatically, with proliferation of automobile and exponential growth of city and population therein.
- 1958 - Map shows expansion east and south.

The maps mentioned in the [draft document](#) are shown below, pasted and annotated onto a single graphic. A second graphic superimposes the 1958 map over the 1995/1998 annexation map, for a sense of scale and growth pattern. **Click once or twice to enlarge:**



Next step is adding fire stations and/or fire districts, right? Maybe, possibly, doubtfully another day. Or maybe someone with the city's GIS department is reading, and would kindly produce and such a thing. We can wish, can't we?

This happens every time that I travel. Even a day trip produces historical interest and subsequent research in a place. It's a wonder that I get anything done in town!

Wilmington Fire Department in 1955, say Sanborn Maps, had six stations with 87 firefighters, and seven pumpers, one aerial truck, and one fireboat. The 1958 map is probably the same or close to the 1955 city size.

Today, they have 11 stations, and 11 engines, two aerial towers, two rescues, two fire boats, and other vehicles, says the WFD site.

Not sure if my 1958 map is correctly sized on the superimposed version.

Legeros - 07/05/10 - 08:35

In April 1984, says my yearbook, a large area of South Wilmington and the Pine Valley subdivision were annexed. Then came a section in Winter Park several months later. This added over 5,000 new residents, and increased the city's size to 32.72 miles. As a result, 12 new positions were added to WFD, and construction started on two new stations.

Legeros - 07/05/10 - 17:35

Try The two links below, the first is the GIS station locator, the second is a google map of stations

<http://www.default.nhcgov.com/website/fir..>

http://www.nhcfirerescue.org/station_map..

J.Boggs - 07/06/10 - 18:02

Name: (real name
preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

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Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.