

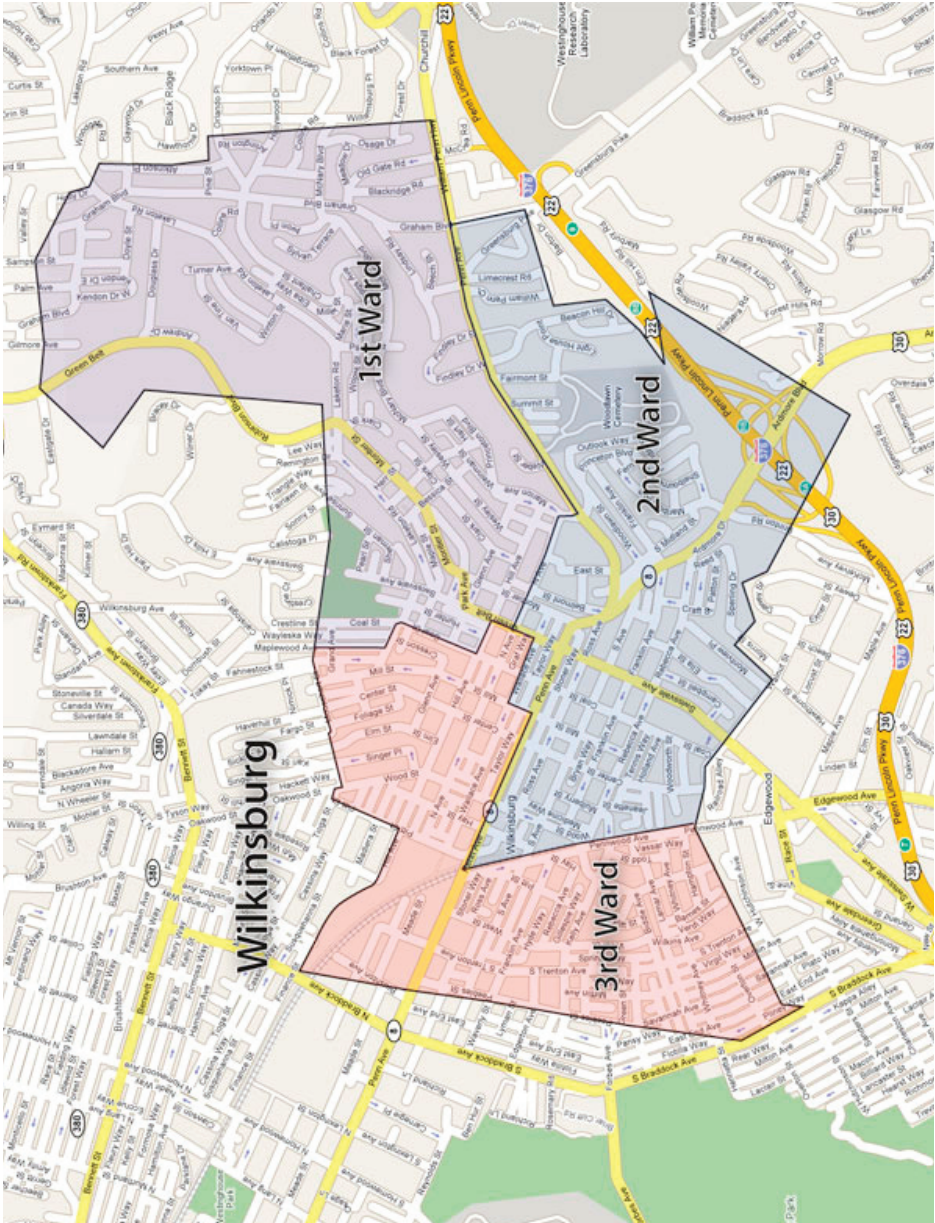
# Wilkinsburg Borough History

The population was 19,196, at the 2000 census, having lost more than 10,000 in 60 years since 1940 when 29,853 people were enumerated. The borough was named in honor of William Wilkins, Secretary of War under President Tyler.

Wilkinsburg was founded and developed by highly religious European immigrants. The borough has a remarkably high concentration of churches, mostly Protestant, which is unusual in a predominantly Catholic region of the country. Bars are prohibited within the borough limits. Wilkinsburg separated from the city of Pittsburgh in 1871. According to borough leader James Kelly, this was in order to maintain the religious integrity of the community. Wilkinsburg was known during this time by many as “The Holy City”.

In 1919, the world’s first commercial radio station, 8XK, later relicensed as KDKA, began broadcasting here from a small garage owned by Frank Conrad. In 1923, Wilkinsburg-based Russian immigrant Vladimir Zworykin designed and patented the iconoscope, the photocell “eye” of early television cameras. Today, ABC affiliate WTAE-TV is located in the borough on Ardmore Blvd.

Just to show you how little of Wilkinsburg we will be seeing today.



# Edgewood Borough History

The population was 3,311 at the 2000 census, with an estimated 2006 population of 3,052. The Borough of Edgewood has been designated an historic district by the Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation.

Dec. 1, 1888 Edgewood Borough Incorporated.

Mar. 8, 1890 Edgewood’s first election was held at the Edgewood Grocery House.

1890 S.W. Dermitt, was appointed Edgewood’s first Postmaster and Tax Collector.

1891 Edgewood’s first school, a four room brick building, was erected.  
Oct. 6, 1892 Edgewood School opened.

Sep. 20, 1892 Cornerstone was laid for first edifice of Edgewood Presbyterian Church.

1898 Spanish American War troop trains went through Edgewood.

Dec. 1899 School for the Deaf destroyed by fire.

Mar. 12, 1900 School for the Deaf reopened in temporary buildings.

May 14, 1903 Dedication of new building of School for the Deaf.

1905 Brick and shingle Station House erected.

1915 Edgewood Cot Club organized.

1918 C.C. Mellor Memorial Library opened.

1932 Stone Municipal Building on Race Street constructed by Erik Lawson. Won a national award for beauty of design - Clifford Lake, architect.

Feb. 25, 1940 Edgewood Garden Club organized.

Dec. 1, 1988 100th Anniversary of Incorporation of Edgewood Borough.

**Cover Photo** - Shot of demonstrators lined up on Edgewood Avenue behind “The Switch.” Judging by their casual attire and expressions, it seems that these may be marchers from the East Pittsburgh plants shouting at “Switch” workers as they leave the plant to join the throng on the first day of the strike. The 1914 strike at the Union Switch & Signal Plant began on June 12th when between 1,100 and 1,400 employees walked out at lunch time to picket and join some 2000 strikers from other Westinghouse plants marching on Edgewood and Braddock Avenues in Swissvale. Organized by the Allegheny Congenial Industrial Union, the strikers demanded an eight-hour day, reinstatement of discharged union men, permission for workmen to elect grievance committees, and higher overtime and holiday rates. The union claimed victory upon culmination of the walkout on June 27th, saying that the company had agreed to allow committees and consider the other grievances. Company general manager H.G. Prout dismissed these claims however, asserting that no promises were made to the employees.





# Edgewood / Wilkinsburg

