



Union Square, 1871

This overlay of an 1871 map of Boston and Adjacent Cities and Towns shows the historic road alignments as represented on the old map in black outlines. The current streets, as of 2006 are shown underneath in the lighter tone. There are a couple of critical differences to note. First, is the connection of Washington Street to Milk Street (now Somerville Av.) Second, we can see how Medford Street worked before this area was transformed by the viaduct for McGrath O'Brien Highway. One wonders whether the many smaller streets that do not show up on the old map did not exist, or were deemed too small to show at the scale of Greater Boston. Also worth noting is the encroachment of Miller's River on Union Square portrayed on the old map.

Sources:

Map: Paul Cote; Fundamentals of GIS Assignment 1; September 2009
 Map of the Compact Areas of Boston and Neighboring Towns by Willis Gray and HF Walling, 1871. Courtesy David Rimsey Collection.
 Modern Roads, City of Somerville 2004