



Where are the five heritage areas?

The five heritage areas, including some of the earliest European settlements in Delaware, reflect the strategic position of northern Delaware as a natural, cultural, and transportation crossroads, the mid-point of the East Coast and dividing line between North and South. Each of the five distinctive landscapes developed where the fertile hills of the Piedmont meet the flat, sandy Atlantic Coastal Plain. This juncture produced a unique intermingling of northern and southern species as well as a mixture of different economic systems, cultures, and religions. Variations in the evolution of each heritage area can be seen in the different kinds of architecture and landscapes, from the massive fieldstone walls and buildings, gardens, park systems, and estates of the Brandywine Valley to the converted industrial complexes of the Christina riverfront in Wilmington; from winding roads through dramatic hills and valleys of the Red Clay Creek, dotted with farms and mill ruins, to the forested preserves of White Clay Creek and the "university town" of Newark; and finally a mix of red brick farmhouses, charming historic towns, and imposing coastal defenses of Pencader/Red Lion further south.