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’Brian 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 Millers River on Union Square portrayed on the old map.

Sources:
Map: Paul Cole; Fundamentals of GIS Assignment 1; September 2009