

# AIME 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR

## “ZINC CITY,” N J ZINC COMPANY TOWN, PALMERTON, PA, OCTOBER 4th, 2021

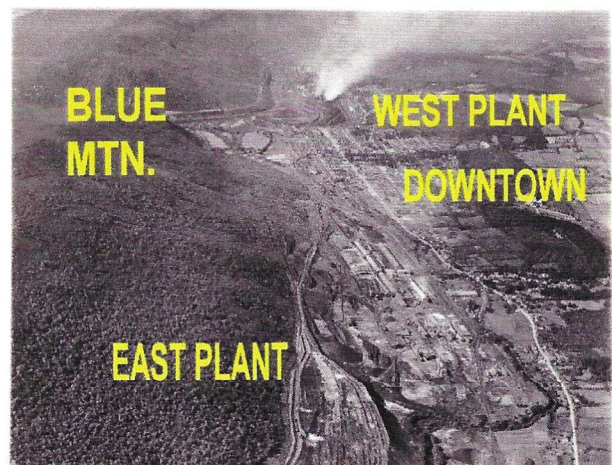
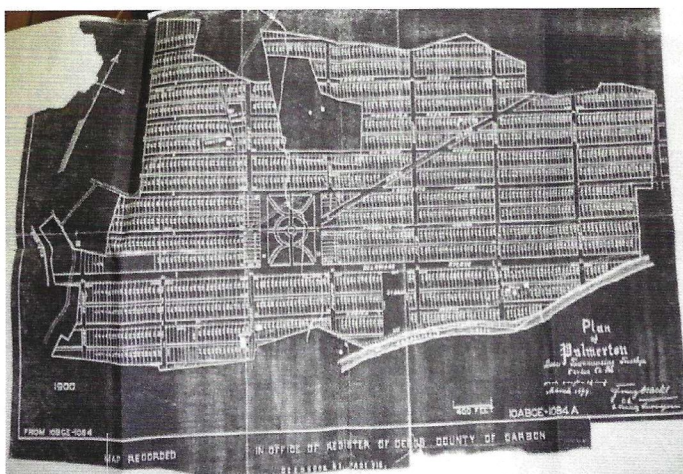
In 1897, the “Great Consolidation” took place in the zinc industry creating the New Jersey Zinc Company (NJZ). The Lehigh Zinc and Iron Company, the Passaic Zinc Company (with the Bergen Point Zinc Company and the Bertha Mineral Company), the Mineral Point Zinc Company, and a predecessor New Jersey Zinc Company merged. This merger resolved decades of litigation about the mining and mineral rights in Franklin and Sterling Hill, NJ. Several other companies were acquired shortly thereafter. NJZ decided to close the many separate and inefficient zinc smelters and to construct a new large modern facility in rural Palmerton, PA, near the anthracite coalfields. The company also built a modern town to house and meet the day-to-day needs of its employees. It was incorporated in 1912 and featured many of the paternalistic features of modern company towns of the day, including a large central park, schools, hospital, community center (Neighborhood House), etc. The headquarters of the NJZ subsidiary, The New Jersey Zinc Company of Pennsylvania, and a research laboratory were also constructed. Production from 1899 to 1986 is estimated to be 5.2 million short tons of zinc metal and 2.9 million short tons of zinc equivalents as zinc oxide. (Bleiwas and DiFrancisco, 2010) In 1983, the smelter and related plants were designated as a Superfund site. Extensive demolition, cleanup, and revegetation projects have been completed. There is now an American Zinc Recycling (AZR) plant on part of the East Plant Area.



(Counterclockwise from the top) Aerial view of Palmerton today showing the locations of the two plant sites. (Google Earth, Kaas' annotation)

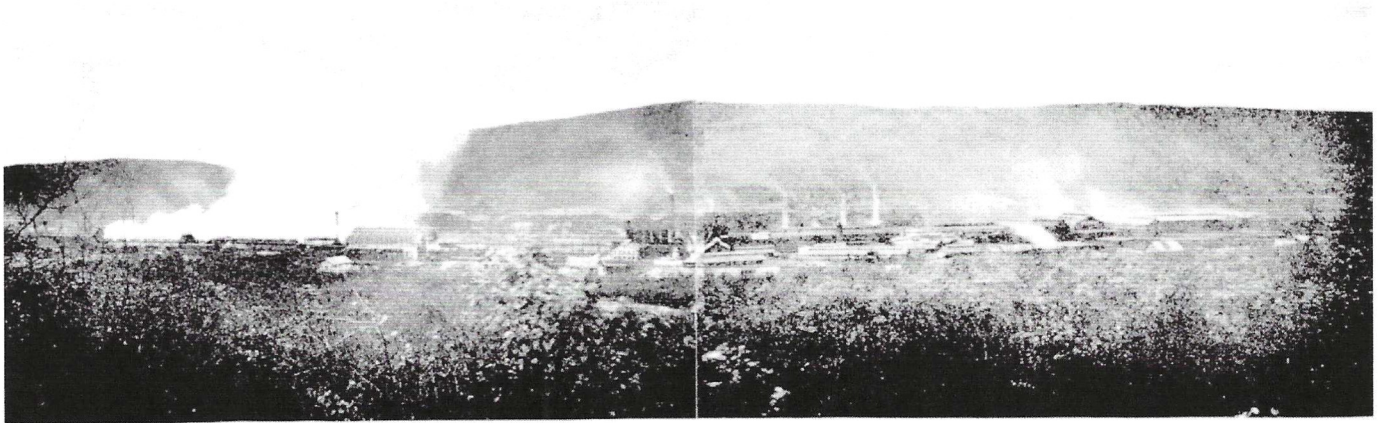
The original 1897 plan for the development of Palmerton. The downtown central park can be seen in each of the photos. (PennDOT)

1931 view from east to west when the plants were in operation. Sulfur dioxide fumes from the plants devastated the slopes and hilltops of Blue Mountain. Reclamation and revegetation began in the 1980's and is still in progress. (Hagley Museum, Kaas' annotation)



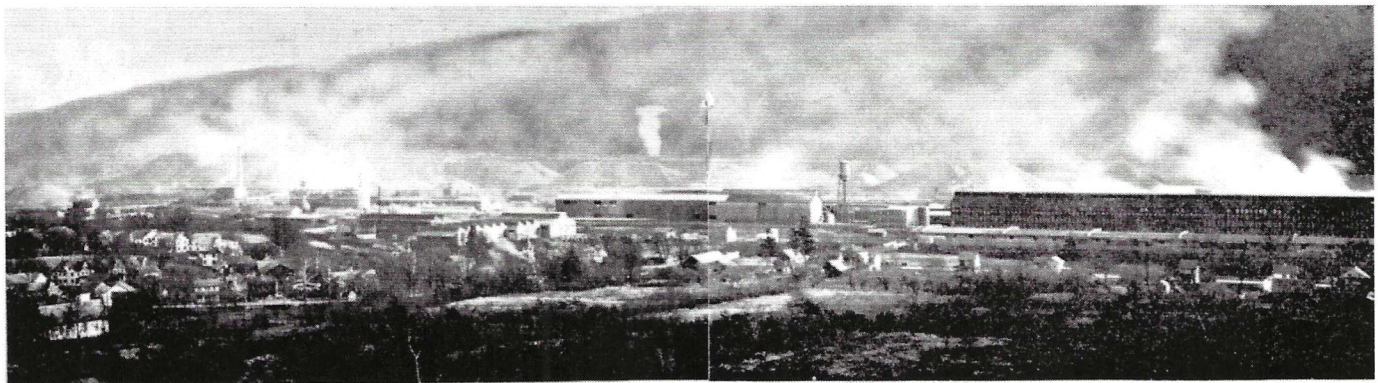
## 1930 HISTORIC VIEWS OF THE NEW JERSEY ZINC COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PALMERTON, PA, PLANTS

The two New Jersey Zinc Company plant sites shown below included the West Oxide Plant, East Oxide Plant, Slab Zinc Plant, Rolled Zinc Plant, Spiegeleisen Plant, Lithopone Plant, Sulfuric Acid Plant, and Chestnut Ridge Railroad.



PALMERTON—WEST PLANT

West Plant Complex.

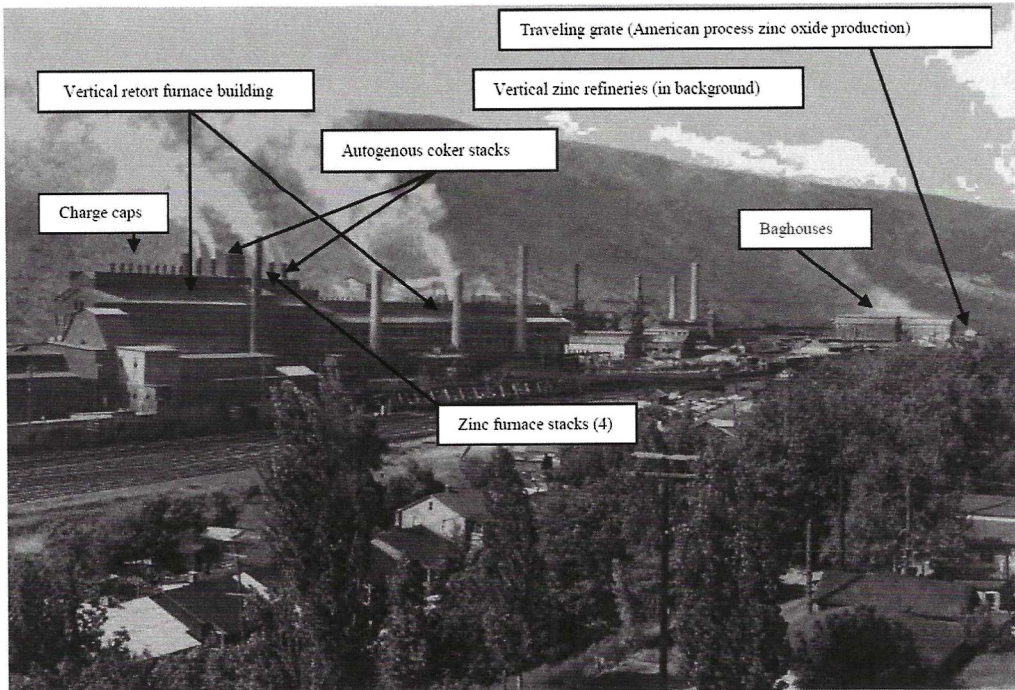


PALMERTON—EAST PLANT

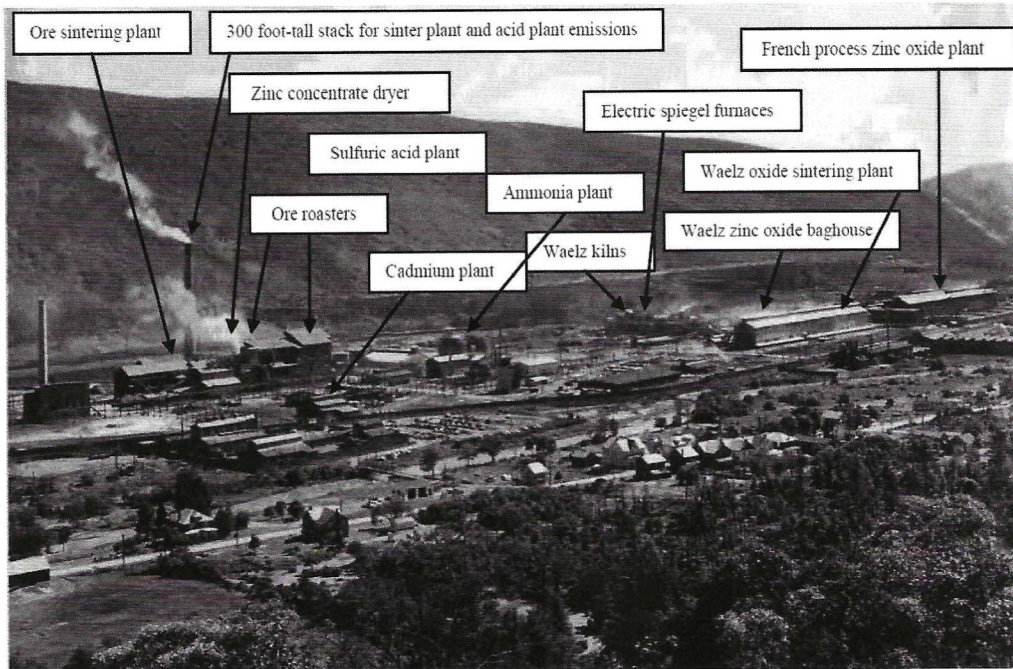
East Plant Complex

ZINC, N. J. Zinc Company Magazine, v15, n2, (New York: N. J. Zinc Co., 1930) pp 50-51. Digitized by John Park.

**1965 HISTORIC VIEWS OF THE NEW JERSEY ZINC COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PALMERTON, PA, PLANTS**



West Plant Complex (1899-1986).



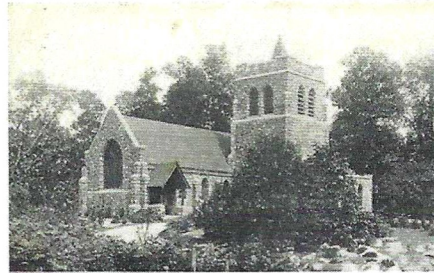
East Plant Complex (1911-1986). An American Zinc Recycling (AZR) plant is now on part of the East Plant site.

Donald I. Bleiwas and Carl DiFrancisco, "Historical Zinc Smelting in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, DC, with Estimates of Atmospheric Zinc Emissions and Other Materials," US Geological Survey, Open File Report 2010-1131, (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, 2010), 123-151, Figures 37, 38.

# HISTORIC POSTCARD VIEWS OF PALMERTON, PA (ca1911-1970)



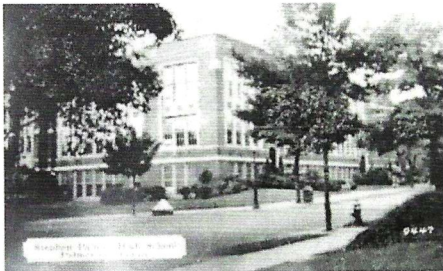
Sacred Heart Catholic Church



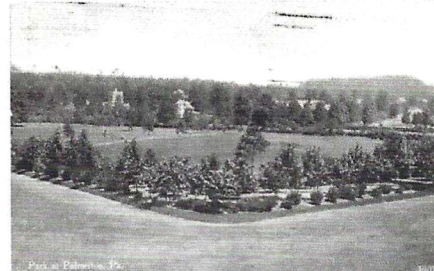
St. John's Episcopal Church



N. J. Zinc Research Lab



Stephen Palmer High School



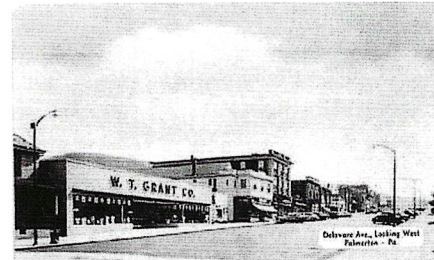
Palmerton Borough Park



N. J. Zinc Co. of Pennsylvania  
General Offices



N J Zinc Neighborhood House  
(Community Center) and First  
Reformed Church



Delaware Avenue Business  
District




Delaware Avenue Business  
District



Horsehead Zinc Slab.



N J Zinc Hospital



**New Jersey  
zinc**

*The world's standard for Zinc products*

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**SLAB ZINC (SPELTER)**

*High Grade Brands*      *Prime Western Brand*  
Horse Head, Bertha      Nassau

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**ZINC OXIDE**  
*Pharmaceutical Zinc Oxide (U.S.P.)*

*Florence Brands*      *Horse Head Brands*  
*(French Process)*      *(American Process)*  
White Seal, Green Seal, Red Seal      Special, Selected, XX

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**Leaded Brands**  
*(American Process)*

Standard   Superior   Sterling   Lehigh

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*Albath*

Zinc Dust    Lithopone    Spiegeleisen  
Sulphuric Acid    Ochre    Zinc Chloride

*Rolled Zinc Strips and Plates*

**THE NEW JERSEY ZINC COMPANY, 160 Front St., New York**  
ESTABLISHED 1848

Images courtesy Ebay.com,  
Vatican.com, and ZINC  
(Digitized by John Park).