HERSHEY ESTATES

Lumber Company

From the beginning of the Chocolate enterprise in Hershey, Mr. Hershey was also building a town. This required building supplies, so one of the early businesses was a lumber company that provided supplies and services to the nascent community.

At first, all other-than-chocolate businesses were partly funded by Milton Hershey personally under the umbrella of the chocolate business and loosely organized as the Hershey Improvement Company. The Lumber Company was very much involved in the construction of the town infrastructure, public buildings, and private homes.

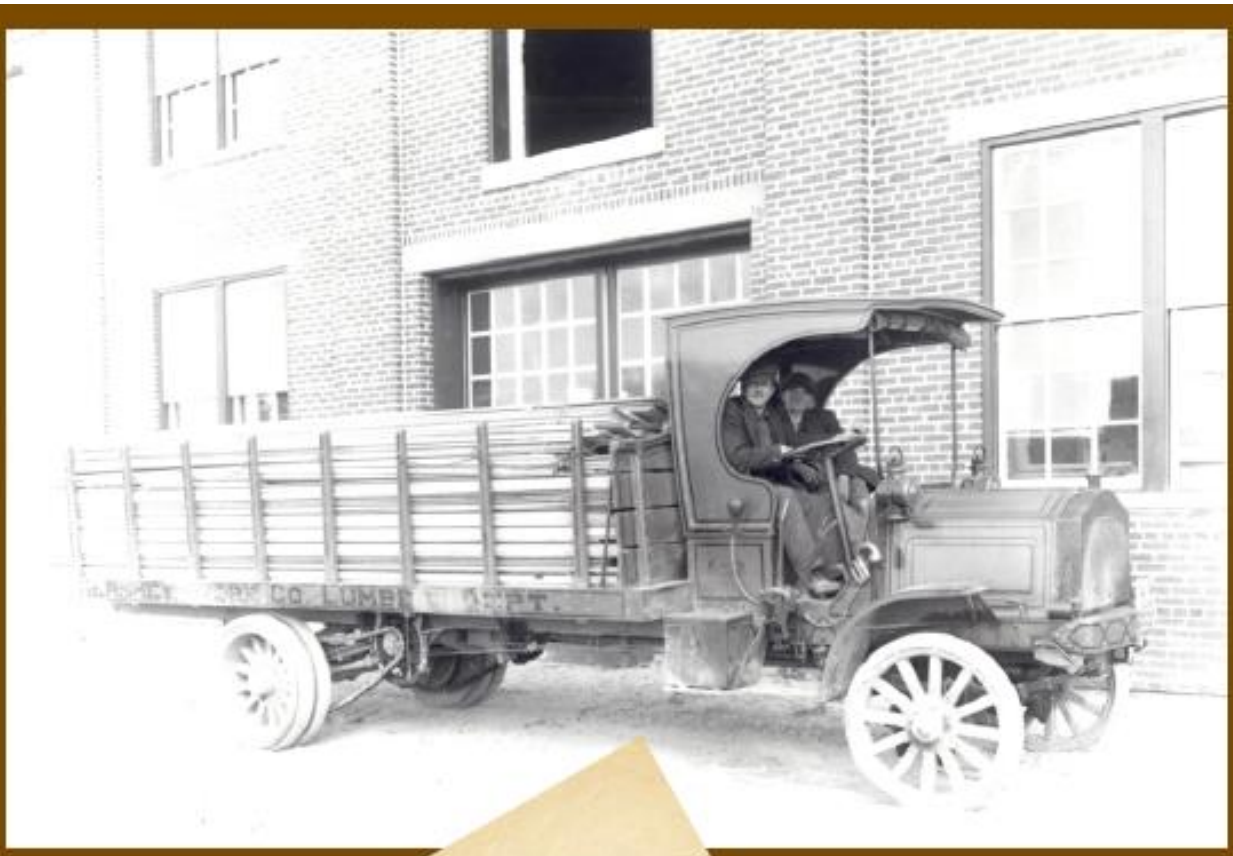
As part of the newly incorporated Hershey Estates in 1927, the Lumber Company continued to operate through 1970. In June of 1971, a fire destroyed the property, which by that time had been sold to Wolf's Lumber Company.

During the strike at the Chocolate plant in 1937, loyal supporters of Mr. Hershey took table legs from the Lumber Company to use as weapons against the strikers.

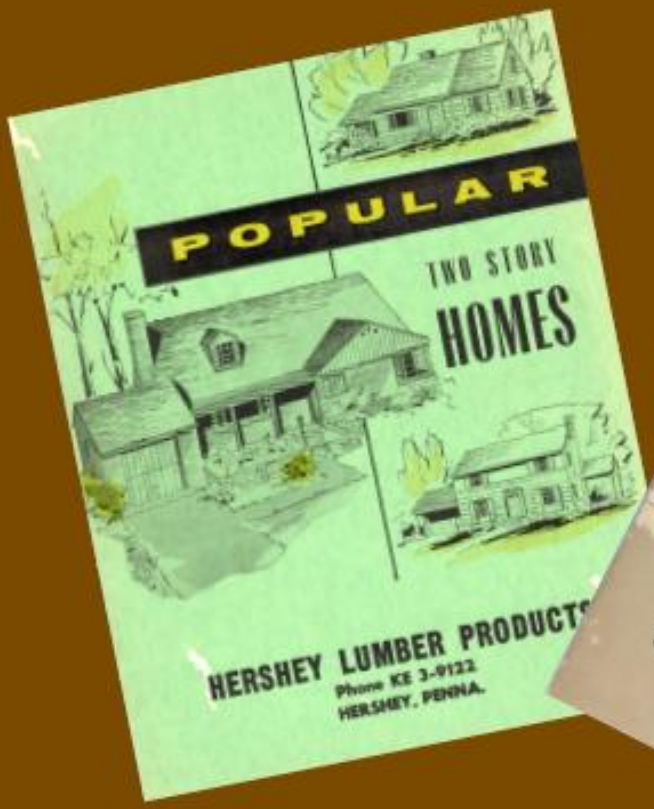
The story of the stick above begins about 1940 when the Marsh Run Depot (now New Cumberland Army Depot) was looking for a use of spare parts from obsolete horse drawn wagons. The US Army assembled the horse drawn wagons at Marsh Run and when the wagons were no longer needed the Army had a lot of pieces or parts remaining.

The Army Depot approached Hershey Estates Lumber Company to take on a project to reshape the wagon spokes into night sticks (billy clubs) to be used by the Military Police. The person given the task was Victor Blouch who was a machine operator and foreman at the Hershey Estates Lumber Company in the Furniture Department.

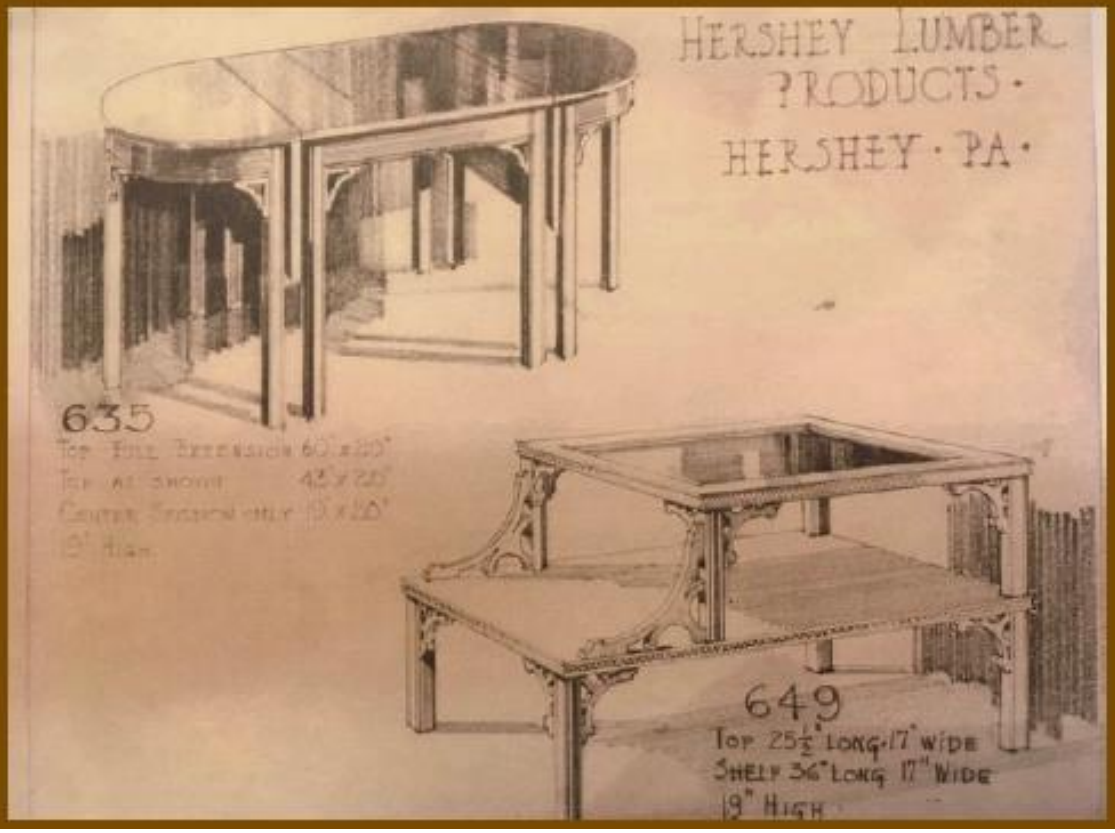
In the time frame of 1940-1941, the Hershey Estates Lumber Company, under Victor Blouch's leadership, made several thousand of the MP night sticks for the US Army. At the end of the project, Mr. Hershey instructed the Lumber Company not to take on any other projects of this type from the government.



These are some of the booklets offered over the years with house plans the Lumber Company built.


POPULAR
TWO STORY
HOMES
HERSHEY LUMBER PRODUCTS
Phone KE 3-9122
HERSHEY, PENNA.

homes
OF MODERATE COST
HERSHEY LUMBER PRODUCTS
Phone KE 3-9122
HERSHEY, PENNA.


HERSHEY LUMBER
PRODUCTS ·
HERSHEY · PA ·
635
649
Top 25½" Long · 17" Wide
Shelf 36" Long 17" Wide
18" High

Changes In Hershey

Cocoa Inn, Lumber Yard To Go

By STELLA CAKE
Hershey Correspondent

HERSHEY — Two familiar sites in Hershey, The Cocoa Inn and the Hershey Lumber Co., will cease operations next year, the board of directors of Hershey Estates announced following a meeting recently.

The Cocoa Inn will be razed while the Hershey Lumber Home and Garden Store will cease operations by early Spring, 1971. The Wolf Supply Co. of York, is expected to lease a portion of the buildings as well as a portion of the inventory for the establishment of a lumber home supply center.

It is fitting that these two facilities are being eliminated at the same time since they had their start together.

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Hershey Estates Photo

Wednesday June 9, 1971

Hershey Fire

Clean up is continuing at the former Hershey Lumber Company, on Chocolate avenue, Hershey, following a four-alarm fire last Wednesday night.

The warehouse is owned by Wolfe Lumber Company. It was being demolished.