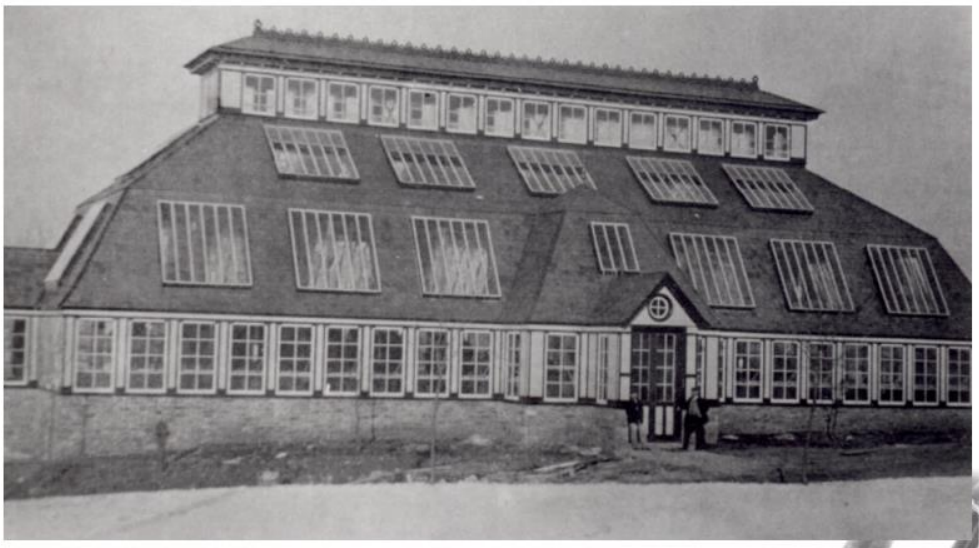
HERSHEY ESTATES

Conservatories ~ Greenhouses ~ Nurseries

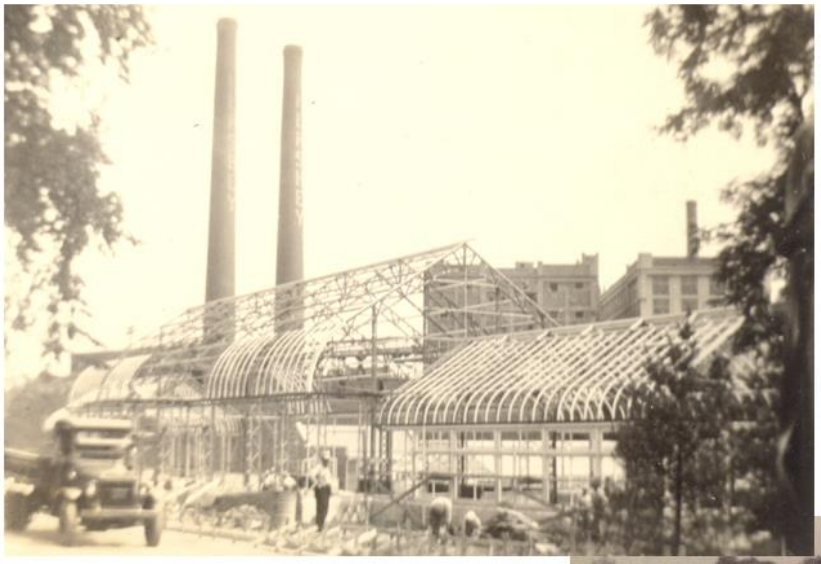
Over the years, a number of conservatory greenhouses dotted the area.

* The first greenhouse was built near High Point Mansion in 1909.



* A year later, a conservatory was built in the area that is now ZOOAMERICA.

* Hershey Industrial School (Milton Hershey School) built a greenhouse in 1919 near the Homestead for use in their agricultural program.



* A large greenhouse complex was built in 1930 at the junction of Derry Road, West Mansion Road, and Trinidad Avenue.

During the winter months, the greenhouses were filled with tropical trees and plants.

They also housed the animals from the zoo that could not tolerate the cold climate—flamingos, colorful birds, and alligators were as much an attraction as the foliage.

"My father told me that the alligators from the zoo were kept in an area of the greenhouses during the coldest winter months."

(Neil Fasnacht)

Mr. Hershey loved to have beautiful landscapes inside and outside. The lobby of the Hotel is designed to give the effect of a Spanish courtyard. To enhance the illusion, four live palms were part of the decor. After a while, they got a bit ratty, at which time they were bundled off to the Greenhouse and a new set were brought in. As recently as within the last 15 years, I was in the lobby and observed them replacing the trees with "forever" palms.

(Susan Mittan)

From as early as 1909, Milton Hershey provided flower shows for guests to enjoy at Easter. Over the years, the popularity of the shows brought thousands each year to see spectacular displays in the green houses. The last show was held in 1942, stopping due to the war.

Lebanon Daily News (Lebanon, Pennsylvania)
We'd. Oct. 15, 1930

Hershey, Oct. 15.

It is estimated that at least two thousand people visited the new Hershey greenhouse and gardenware department, which was opened over Sunday. The display of cut flowers and decorative plants was beautiful. One of the most tropical sections in appearance was the palm house and the cactus department. The additional attraction was the former home of Dr. and Mrs. M. L. Hershey, which has been converted into a gardenware department, with its spacious lawns, dotted with all kinds of pottery and garden novelties. The interior of the building contains an endless variety of the most interesting garden pieces.

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH
Fri. Mar. 19. 1937

EASTER FLOWER SHOW AT HERSHEY IS FREE

Hershey, March 19—The Easter flower display of the Hershey Greenhouses and Garden Shop will be opened free to the public on Saturday afternoon and Palm Sunday. The hours on Saturday will be from 1 to 8 p. m., and on Palm Sunday, from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m.

Last year 8000 attended the two day exhibit.

The ten Hershey Greenhouses, which are situated between the Zoological Garden and the American Indian Museum, occupy 23,000 square feet of growing plants and trees. The Garden Shop is at 57 Derry Road. Surrounding the Garden Shop is the Hershey Nursery of 12 acres, containing an outdoor exhibit of trees, shrubs, and hardy flowers.

"Hershey Estates Greenhouse will discontinue operations as of June 1, 1960. This will not affect the Nursery."

HERSHEY NEWS 5-26-60

For further discovery, explore the Hershey History Center's Photo Archive.

HERSHEY HISTORY CENTER