

PHILATELIC SHORTS: Maurer, NJ and Barber Station [Perth Amboy] By Gene Fricks

While indexing journals for the APRL (a task I have been doing for some time), occasionally items strike my eye regarding New Jersey postal history. This short article (no author noted, but likely William F. Rapp, of Crete NE, who was editor-publisher of Postal History-USA) appeared in Postal History-USA in March 1979:

Maurer was a small industrial community, located just north of the City of Perth Amboy in Middlesex County. The Maurer community was a “company town” built by the Henry J. Maurer Brick Company. This company was well known for both high quality fire bricks and building bricks and for many years was one of the leading brick manufacturers in the Raritan clay area of New Jersey. The community of Maurer was one of the few “company towns” in New Jersey and was patterned after company housing in England. Not only did the community have its own post office, but also its own railroad station.

The Maurer Post Office was established January 22, 1892 with John Pfeiffer as the first postmaster. On November 30, 1920 it became a station of the Perth Amboy Post Office and on February 1, 1938 the name was changed to Barber, which was a branch of the Perth Amboy Post Office. The Barber Post Office was discontinued, April 30, 1960. The Henry J. Maurer Brick Company has long been history and the land is now occupied by the Barber Asphalt Company.

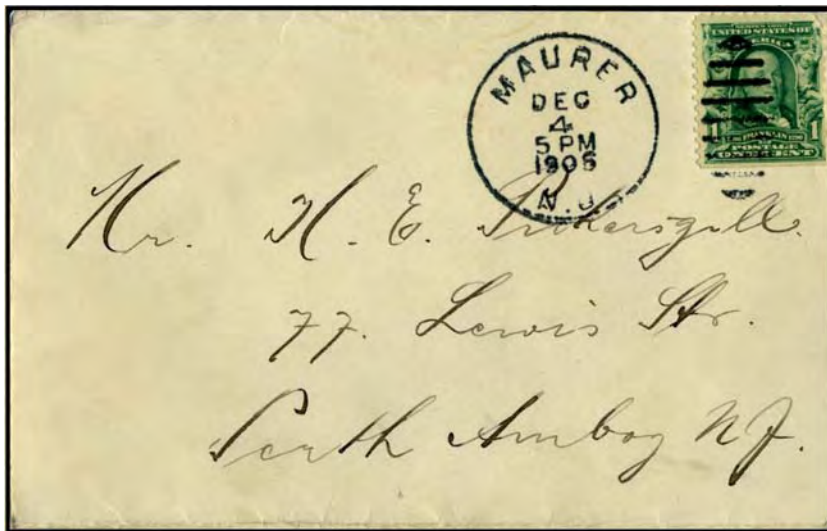


Fig. 1: A December 4, 1905 cover from Maurer, NJ, which is also shown on our cover with the inside invitation to a Metzelsuppe visible.

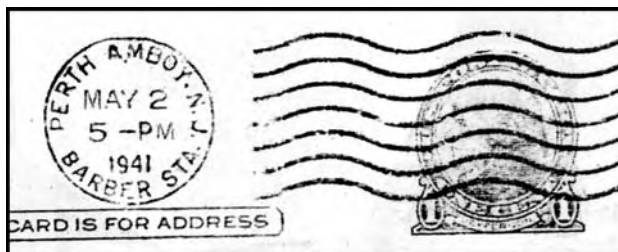


Fig. 2: A Perth Amboy, Barber Station cancel from May 2, 1941 shown in the original article on a partial view of a postal card to Helmetta, NJ.

Barber Asphalt appears to have become part of Chevron Refinery's facility in 1946,¹ where asphalt continues to be made.

ENDNOTES:

¹ Document of Environmental Indicator Determination at http://www.epa.gov/region2/waste/chev_p725.pdf [5/9/09].

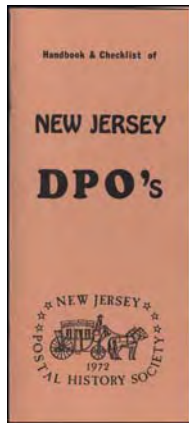
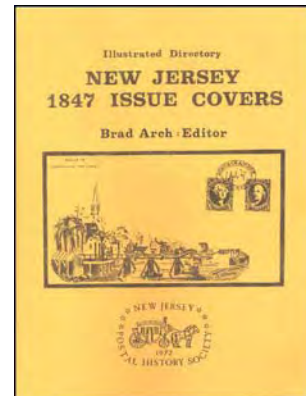
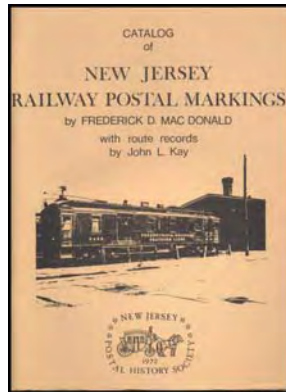
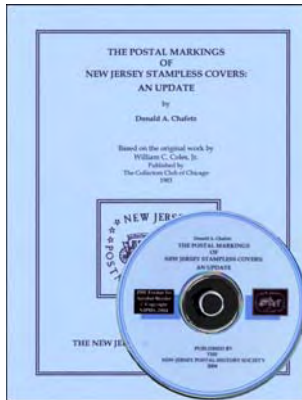
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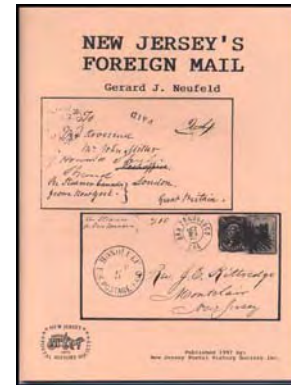
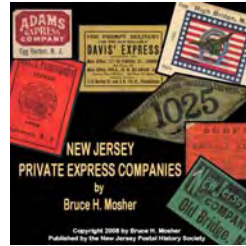
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