

**CITY OF HAZLETON
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

JUNE 1992

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BACKGROUND STUDIES

CHAPTER 1
HISTORY OF HAZLETON

1. HISTORY OF HAZLETON

Indians of eastern Pennsylvania travelled the "Warrior's Path" between the Delaware, Lehigh and Susquehanna Rivers to trade with Indian tribes from southcentral and western Pennsylvania. "Warrior's Path" was also heavily travelled by early settlers and church missionaries to reach the wilderness areas of Pennsylvania. The Path passed through the area which is now the City of Hazleton. Hazleton's name was derived from the name given this area by the Indians who travelled the Path along the Great Hazel Swamp, so named because of its abundance of hazel bush.

The City of Hazleton began as a village of approximately 10 houses resulting from the construction of the Berwick or Lehigh and Susquehanna Turnpike. The first house erected was near the corner of what is now known as Broad and Hazle Streets. It was built of logs cut in the swamp and adjoined the old Lehigh Valley Railroad Shops. The first occupant was a Mr. Bowman who started a sawmill. When the prospectors came to this section to locate the coal beds, he kept a boarding house at the location. For many years, this house was also occupied by Doc Bird and his family of pioneer residents of the town and the Davenport family, who were also pioneer residents. The building finally became part of the assets of Lehigh Valley Railroad Company.

The Berwick Turnpike was constructed by a private company in 1804 to reach the rich timberlands of the Upper Susquehanna. The new road passed directly through the Great Hazel Swamp as it stretched over the mountains which separated the Lehigh and Susquehanna River. Hazleton's present day Broad Street is part of the original turnpike.

After the Berwick Turnpike was complete, a state road from Wilkes-Barre was constructed. This road connected with the Pike at the corner where Broad and Vine Streets intersect today.

Hazleton's growth was slow at first. Lumbering was the only industry. The lumber was carried by livestock (horse or ox) to the Lehigh and Schuylkill Rivers, where it was floated down river to market. Supporting services started sprouting up in the village. In 1809 the first hotel, called "The State House", was built by Jacob Drumheller on the corner of Broad and Vine Streets. The State House was constructed primarily as a shelter for the travelers, either missionary or soldier, who passed through the sparsely settled area.

Coal was not discovered in the region until 1813 when Welsh prospectors found a seam in the Beaver Meadows Area, southeast of Hazleton. Coal was mined in the Wyoming Valley for several years before it was discovered in the uplands. One old story tells that coal was accidentally discovered in Hazleton in 1818 when a deer

pawed open an outcrop. The current story is that the City of Hazleton began to prosper when an outcrop of coal was discovered by John Charles Fitzgerald, a blacksmith, while he was hunting in 1826. The result was the founding of the Hazleton Coal Company.

The discovery of coal brought many young prospectors to the area. Nathan Beach was the first coal miner in Hazleton. He operated and mined coal at the No. 3 Hazleton Mine until 1828, when he sold his land to Judge Barnes of Philadelphia for \$20,000. Judge Barnes later sold the land for \$96,000.

Ario Pardee, a young civil engineer, was also attracted to Hazleton by the discovery of coal. Once in the area, he was quick to recognize the possibilities of a community with such natural advantages. At that time, the coal industry was regarded as uncertain, and many looked upon its development as a doubtful venture. But Pardee and the Hazleton Coal Company remained optimistic. With the engineering skills of Ario Pardee, the Hazleton Coal Company laid out a patch town for the miners and their families, which eventually became the City of Hazleton.

Coal was plentiful, but transporting it to market was a problem that slowed production. In 1833, Ario Pardee surveyed for a railroad which would extend from Beaver Meadows southeast, to the area now known as Jim Thorpe. The first train travelled the tracks in 1836 and the coal industry really began to grow.

Pardee became a coal operator in 1840 and actively pursued the continued development of the Hazleton Coal Company. He also initiated the construction of the Hazleton Railroad Company to connect Hazleton to the Beaver Meadows Railroad. This allowed coal to be transported from Hazleton mines to Penn Haven, a load point on the Lehigh Canal.

Once the coal industry was properly established, the Village of Hazleton grew rapidly. Instead of a few houses and businesses along the Berwick Pike, settlement started to spread, new businesses were started, and new roads were constructed. During the late 1840's and early 1850's the Village of Hazleton experienced its first real spurt of growth. Coal mining operations were started in small patch towns all around the Hazleton area. The entire area shared the wealth which the anthracite brought to Hazleton. Places like Conyngham, Hazle Township and West Hazle Borough developed because of the Hazleton Coal Company's mining operations.

Hazleton remained a village until 1856 when it was incorporated as a borough, and because of continued growth and prosperity it was chartered as a city in 1891. The city's name was originally spelled Hazelton, until a clerk drawing up the original document accidentally misspelled it as Hazleton. The first Borough official was Abe Jones, owner of a tailor's shop on East Broad Street. He took office in March of 1857.

The first school building in Hazleton was erected by the Hazleton Coal Company in 1837. It was built at the corner of Church and Green Streets, and the first teacher was Fanny Blackman. The school was also used as a Church and Sunday School. In 1853 this building was destroyed by fire. In 1893 the Green Street School was erected. In 1895 the old Church Street Building was built. In 1902 the Poplar Street School was dedicated; in 1906, the Walnut Street School. School facilities were provided as demand grew.

As the city grew, other necessary facilities were provided. The first lock-up facility was an overturned coal car. It was located off of East Broad Street. In 1857, the lock-up facility was moved to a newly built stone building on the corner of Mine and Cedar Streets. In 1868, Borough Council decided that this building was inadequate and voted to make the jail a part of the new Borough Hall construction project, located on North Wyoming Street.

The Hazleton Fire Company was organized by Borough Council on March 15, 1869. The first firehouse, the Old Pioneer Firehouse, was another part of the Borough hall construction project.

By 1850, coal had surpassed lumber as Hazleton's leading product. For nearly a century, coal was shipped in ever-increasing amounts. In 1860 the Borough of Hazleton had a population of 4,000.

The Civil War broke out in 1861 calling eight hundred men from Hazleton to fight for the Union Army. The military ranks ranged from private to lieutenant. During the years of the war, citizens of Hazleton gathered at the local company store, owned by Ario Pardee, to hear the latest news regarding the war. In the decade of the 1860's, despite the tragedies of the war, the Borough of Hazleton experienced a tremendous population increase of 2,300. Coal had become a very important commodity in the country's economy; and with the growth of the coal industry came the overall growth of the Pennsylvania anthracite region.

New communities sprouted up all around Hazleton during the mid to late 1800's. New discoveries of coal were the main reasons communities came into existence, such as: Yorktown, Milnesville, Coleraine, Humboldt, Hardwood, Oneida, Freeland, Eckley, Jeddo and McAdoo. Settlers of these communities travelled to Hazleton City to shop and do business, which boosted the economy of Hazleton. In 1913, Hazleton gained the status of a third class city. The mining industry continued to prosper during the early 1900's especially during periods of increased demand such as World War I. Also the increasing use of coal powered generators and furnaces to provide power and heat to accommodate a growing country created an ever increasing demand on the coal industry.

The coal industry peaked during the World War II years when anthracite coal was in great demand. The 1940's was the "boom time" for Hazleton with over 20,000 men working in the mines. However, by the mid

1950's the demand for coal decreased as gas and oil replaced coal furnaces and diesel engines took the place of coal fired locomotives. The strip mining operations also caused a loss of jobs. The large equipment used became more efficient with technology and required less manpower to run the operation

The City of Hazleton shows scars of old strip mining operations that started during the early 1900's. The exact date of the first strip mine is unavailable. Strip mining is commonly used when seams of coal are discovered in an outcrop form. Large power shovels remove the overburden and strip the vein of coal from underground. The most blatant evidence of such operations are located on the eastern and western portion of Hazleton City. Reclamation of old strip mining areas is a concern for many municipalities in the Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Region.

When the coal industry faltered in the 1950's, Hazleton lost many jobs. There were only 2,300 men working in the coal mines in 1957. Hazleton struggled for years trying to diversify the economic base in order to strengthen the job market. CAN DO (Community Area New Development Organization) was established to raise the necessary funds for building new industrial parks. Since its creation in 1956, CAN DO has been a key force behind Hazleton's industrial revitalization and diversification. Over 177 new industries have been added to the Greater Hazleton Area and almost 12,000 jobs have been created. Since its inception, CAN DO has developed three regional industrial parks, and additional industrial centers have cropped-up throughout the Greater Hazleton Area. Presently CAN DO is in the process of developing a fourth industrial park (Edgewood Industrial Park) in Drums, north of the City. In addition, numerous active and thriving business and commercial centers have developed in and around the City of Hazleton, and recent years have seen an increase in the development of suburban communities and rural residential areas.

In 1965 when Interstates 80 and 81 were opened, Hazleton became more accessible. The highways provide access to major markets along the Eastern seaboard and direct connections to major cities. The major interchange provides a convenient access for both industries and residents of the community.

There are many opportunities in the City for industrial/business development. The Hazleton Commerce Center and Butler Industrial Park in southwestern Hazleton provide vacant parcels of land for interested industries/businesses. The area encompassed by the Commerce Center and Butler Industrial Park is a Department of Commerce, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved Enterprise Zone. [Described in Section 4.5]. This land is already served by all of the necessary utilities. The City is currently implementing plans to improve and upgrade the water supply and sewer service.

The housing market in the City is also improving with a wide variety of housing programs in operation. The City is working to provide liveable housing units for low to moderate income families from the existing housing stock. At the same time, housing developments such as the Terrace Estates and Birch Knoll Estates provide the market with new housing units. Housing is discussed more completely in Chapter Six.

The City of Hazleton and the Greater Hazleton Region strive to attract new economic development and to provide an adequate housing stock for the population. This Plan will help identify areas of need and make recommendation on how to meet the needs.

CHAPTER 2
NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

2. NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

2.1 Geology

Three separate geologic sections are found in the City of Hazleton. These three sections are the Llewellyn Formation, the Pottsville Group, and the Mauch Chunk Formation. The most prevalent is the Pottsville Group which covers most of the northern and southern areas of the City. The Mauch Chunk Formation occurs in small areas in the northeast and southwest portions of the City limits. The Llewellyn Formation occurs in a band through the center of the City.

The Pottsville Group contains three formations: the Sharp Mountain Formation; the Schuylkill Formation; and the Tumbling Run Formation. All three formations are basically sandstone, shale, siltstone, and conglomerate. All these formations contain thin coal beds. A small area of this Group is mined in the western part of the City.

The Mauch Chunk Formation is composed of shale, claystone, sandstone, and siltstone. The overlying mantle is thin. A small portion of the Mauch Chunk Formation has been mined for coal in the southwestern portion of the City.

The Llewellyn Formation consists of interbedded sandstone, siltstone, and conglomerate. This formation contains thin beds of coal and shale. This is the formation that has been the most extensively mined for coal in the Hazleton area.

2.2 Topography and Drainage

The topography of the City of Hazleton can be described as moderately sloping hills. The original topography has been disturbed as a result of the anthracite coal mining in the area. The predominant features are the strip mines and coal spoil piles that surround the City. Slopes vary from five percent in the northern portion of the City to over sixty percent in the strip mined areas. Typical slopes vary from five percent to fifteen percent.

There are three major drainage patterns in the City. The northern portion of the City drains into Black Creek; the central portion into Hazle Creek; and the southern portion into Dreck Creek. All these creeks flow to the east and eventually reach the Lehigh River.

There are no floodplains located within the City of Hazleton.

2.3 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Figure 2-1 illustrates a number of environmentally sensitive areas in the City of Hazleton that warrant special consideration in planning for future development. These areas are considered environmentally sensitive due to their limitations during conventional construction practices or because of their value to the community. The sensitive areas include the following:

- o Slopes exceeding 15 percent;
- o Unsewered areas;
- o Recreation areas;
- o Wetlands; and
- o Potential hazardous waste sites.

Descriptions of the areas in the City classified as environmentally sensitive follow.

2.3.1 Steep Slopes

Slopes equal to or greater than fifteen (15) percent are classified as environmentally sensitive because of the increased potential for erosion, low degree of slope stability, and difficult access in poor weather conditions.

Areas exceeding the 15 percent slope minimum occur mainly in the southern portion of the City. They are typically coal spoil piles. Other steeply sloped places occur in small areas throughout the City. Approximately 239.9 acres of the City fall in this category.

2.3.2 Unsewered Areas

The areas outside the current sewer service area have also been delineated on Figure 2-1. A portion of the unsewered areas occur in abandoned strip mines. The remainder of the unsewered areas occur in the southern portion of the City. Development in these areas should be preceded by the extension of public sewers or should take place on large lots. This area includes approximately 1923.5 acres.

2.3.3 Recreation Areas

Recreation areas cover 25.8 acres of the City. These areas are fairly well distributed throughout the City. The largest facility is Altmiller Park and Playground, operated and maintained by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. These areas are important to the well-being of the city's residents as they provide a great deal of the open space in the City. They provide areas for both children to play and adults to gather and relax. They are an important part of the total fabric of the City. Recreation areas are shown on Figure 8-1, Community Facilities.

2.3.4 Historic Sites

There are three historic sites listed on the Luzerne County inventory of historic structures that are located within the City of Hazleton. They include the Ario Pardee House on Broad Street between Church and Laurel Streets; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church; and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church at 602 North Laurel Street. The Keller House, formerly located at 217 West Broad Street, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. However, the house has since been razed.

2.3.5 Wetlands

Wetlands in the City of Hazleton are primarily located on or near the culm piles that are left from former strip mining operations. These areas are found in the eastern, western and southern portions of the City. Ponding, which is formed because of the drainage off the culm piles, are classified as wetland as identified on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map. The wetlands shown on the NWI Map constitute approximately 13.4 acres of the land area in Hazleton. Figure 2-1 shows the location of the wetlands.

Development in and around wetlands is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and PADER. Construction in these areas should be preceded by a site delineation in accordance with the January 1989 Federal Wetlands Delineation Manual and evaluation of the wetlands value for wildlife habitat, flood protection, and water quality improvement.

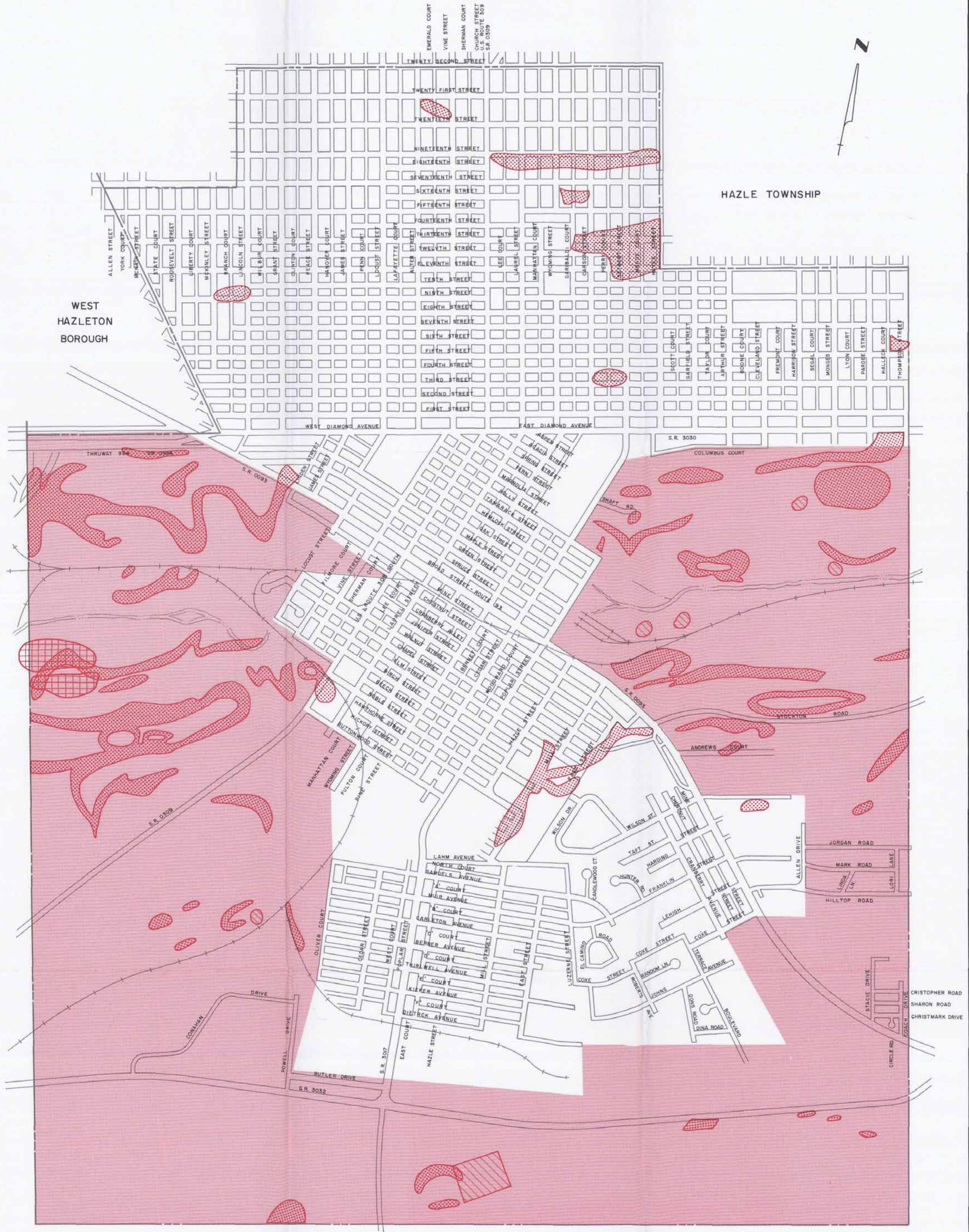
2.3.6 Potential Hazardous Waste Sites

The City of Hazleton has one potential hazardous waste site listed on the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (1980) List, referred to as the CERCLA List. The list is a collection of sites throughout the United States which are classified by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the environmental agencies in the individual states as potentially contaminated. The site in Hazleton included on the CERCLA List is the old Hazleton City Landfill located south of Route 924 (See Figure

2-1). This site is not classified as a Superfund site, therefore Superfund monies are not available to the site for financing clean-up. The City should investigate the extent of contamination prior to any potential development.

2.3.7 Summary

Approximately 57.8 percent (2210 acres) of the City of Hazleton has been classified as environmentally sensitive. This is somewhat misleading since unsewered areas are considered sensitive since the installation of septic tanks could contaminate groundwater. There are large areas of the City such as the surface mined areas that are undeveloped and therefore unsewered. As stated earlier these areas are important because of their value to the community or the problem they may cause for construction activities. These areas need to be considered in the development of planning objectives and the implementation program. Ordinances and policies also need to be developed to protect these areas from development or improper development.







WEST
HAZLETON
BOROUGH

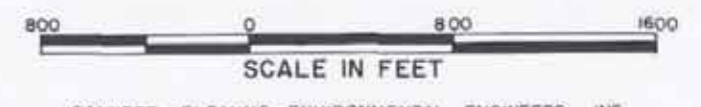
HAZLE TOWNSHIP

HAZLE TOWNSHIP

LEGEND

-  OLD CITY LANDFILL
-  WETLANDS
-  SLOPES GREATER THAN 15%
-  UNSEWERED AREA

CITY OF HAZLETON
LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
**ENVIRONMENTALLY
SENSITIVE AREAS**



GANNETT FLEMING ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS, INC.
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

**CHAPTER 3
POPULATION**

3. POPULATION

Population data are crucial in making planning decisions involving the physical, economic and social development of Hazleton. A quantitative analysis of population and a qualitative analysis of population composition are crucial elements for formulating reasonable projections of future population levels and needs. Reasonable population projections are necessary to assess future population demands for schools, recreation facilities, roadways, police and fire protection and other public facilities and utilities. Matching these facilities and services to future population levels is necessary to maintain or improve the quality of life in Hazleton.

3.1 Historic Population Growth Trends

The suburbanization taking place across the country in the past 40 to 50 years has resulted in population losses for many urban municipalities. Hazleton is no exception, as it has lost population since its peak of 38,009 in 1940. Hazleton's 1990 population of 24,730 is two-thirds of its peak population. A summary of the historic growth trends of the City is found in Table 3-1.

The population losses shown in Table 3-1 are not unique to Hazleton or even the east-central region of Pennsylvania. Table 3-2 contains a comparison of historic growth trends of various third class cities in Pennsylvania since 1950. These cities were randomly selected from third class cities around the Commonwealth to reveal the similarities between Hazleton and other third class cities. Hazleton's population loss for the past 40 years is nearly equivalent to the average population loss for the cities inventoried.

3.2 Special Population Characteristics

3.2.1 Age and Sex Distribution

The age and sex distribution of City residents is a key factor in population growth and the type of services best suited for the majority of residents. Healthy growth will take place only if there is a balance of age groups. A high percentage of young adults in the child bearing years may result in rapid growth. Conversely, a high percentage of senior citizens can result in slower growth and increase the demand for services related to this age group. The 15 to 34 year age group is the range of persons eligible for marriage and most frequently engaged in household formations. This is also the prime childbearing age group. Any substantial decline or imbalance in their numbers will impact the birth rate. The age group from 25 to 44 is the segment of the population that comprises the local labor force and the group most frequently engaged in home buying or building. Trends in the upper age groups (65 or over) should be examined closely to determine specialized housing and community facility needs specifically suited for the elderly.

Table 3-1
Hazleton
Population Trends
1950-1990

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Numerical Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
1950	35,491	-2,518	-6.6
1960	32,056	-3,435	-9.7
1970	30,426	-1,630	-5.1
1980	27,318	-3,108	-10.2
1990	24,730	-2,588	- 9.5

Sources: 1962 Hazleton Comprehensive Policy Plan
U.S. Census Bureau

Table 3-2
Historic Growth Comparison of
Hazleton and Other Selected Third Class Cities
1950-1990
(Percent)

<u>City</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1950-1990</u>
Hazleton	- 9.7	- 5.1	-10.2	- 9.5	-30.3
Butler	-10.7	-10.9	- 8.9	- 7.7	-33.1
Easton	-10.3	- 5.3	-14.0	+1.0	-26.2
Lebanon	+ 6.7	- 4.9	-10.0	-3.5	-11.9
New Castle	- 8.3	-13.9	-12.8	-15.7	-42.0
New Kensington	- 6.6	-13.5	-13.0	-10.0	-36.8
Pottsville	- 8.4	- 9.0	- 7.7	- 8.8	-29.8
Sharon	- 4.5	-10.3	-15.9	- 8.2	-33.9
Washington	-10.4	-15.8	- 7.4	-13.6	-39.6
Williamsport	- 6.8	- 9.6	-11.9	- 4.4	-29.1
Average	- 6.9	- 9.8	-11.2	- 8.0	-31.3

Sources: 1962 Hazleton Comprehensive Policy Plan
U.S. Census Bureau

Table 3-3 is a comparison of the age and sex distribution of Hazleton residents in 1950 and 1990. Figure 3-1 graphically depicts the City's age and sex distribution.

The largest population loss between 1950 and 1990 has been in the 20 to 44 age group, where there has been a loss of 6,082 persons. This represents 56.5 percent of the total population loss in the forty year period. The second greatest population loss was in the school age group, where 4,975 persons (46.2 percent of the total loss) were lost between 1950 and 1990. The 45 to 64 age group remained more constant, losing only 2,779 people during the period (25.8 percent of the total loss). These losses were partially offset by a gain of 3,075 persons in the retired age group.

Compared to Pennsylvania's 1990 age distribution, Hazleton has approximately four percent less of its population in the school age and productive age groups; 1.3 percent more in the mature age group; and 8.6 percent more in the retired age group. Therefore, Hazleton's population is older than the state's, as a whole.

The sex distribution change in Hazleton's population has not been nearly as dramatic as the age distribution change. The overall percentage of women in the population has only changed from 52.4 to 54.4 percent. Within the different age groups the percent of women has remained fairly constant for the school age, productive, and mature age groups, but it has increased by 20.4 percent in the retired age group. The percent of the total persons in 1990 in the mature and retired age groups that are women was 54.8 and 64.8 percent, respectively. The primary reason for the higher percent of women in these age groups is the higher mortality rate for men.

3.2.2 Education

Table 3-4 is a comparison of the educational attainment of Hazleton and Pennsylvania residents over the age of 25. Hazleton has a higher percent of elementary school graduates (21.3 to 18.4 percent); and high school attendants or graduates (62.7 to 57.3 percent), but a lower percentage of college attendants or graduates (16.0 to 24.3 percent). Educational attainment reflects upon the skills and abilities of the labor force and the ability of the labor force to compete in the labor market. Educational skills also provide a degree of economic security for the individual and improve the general economic and employment conditions in the area. The data in Table 3-4 indicates that Hazleton residents in general are well equipped to compete in traditional or non-technical fields.

Table 3-3
Comparison of Age and Sex Composition
1950 and 1990

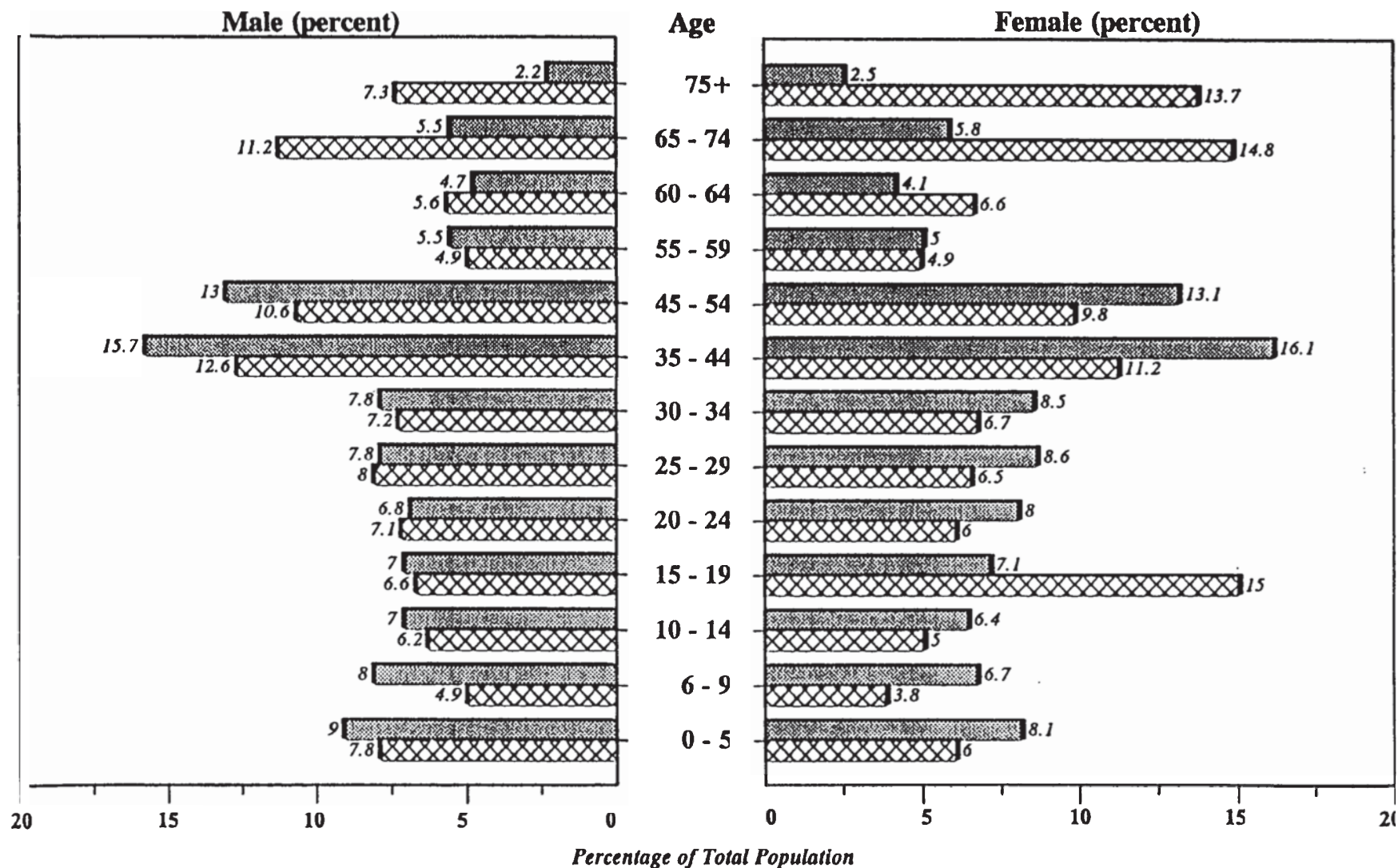
Age Group	1950				Age Group Percent of Total	1990				Age Group Percent of Total	Change in Age Group as Percent of Total 1950-1990
	Male		Female			Male		Female			
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total		Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total		
0-5	1,518	9.0	1,510	8.1	8.5	882	7.8	806	6.0	6.8	-1.7
6-9	1,353	8.0	1,237	6.7	7.3	550	4.9	512	3.8	4.3	-3.0
10-14	1,191	7.0	1,196	6.4	6.7	697	6.2	676	5.0	5.5	-1.2
15-19	1,179	7.0	1,327	7.1	7.1	747	6.6	666	5.0	5.7	-1.4
School Age Group	(5,241)	(31.0)	(5,270)	(28.3)	(29.6)	(2,876)	(25.5)	(2,660)	(19.8)	(22.3)	(-7.3)
20-24	1,146	6.8	1,489	8.0	7.4	786	7.1	802	6.0	6.5	-0.9
25-29	1,316	7.8	1,589	8.6	8.2	903	8.0	875	6.5	7.2	-1.0
30-34	1,323	7.8	1,583	8.5	8.2	817	7.2	895	6.7	6.9	-1.3
35-44	2,657	15.7	2,997	16.1	15.9	1,419	12.6	1,511	11.2	11.8	-4.1
Productive Age Group	(6,442)	(38.1)	(7,658)	(41.2)	(39.7)	(3,935)	(34.9)	(4,083)	(30.14)	(32.4)	(-7.3)
45-54	2,202	13.0	2,430	13.1	13.0	1,198	10.6	1,323	9.8	10.2	-2.8
55-59	928	5.5	925	5.0	5.2	549	4.9	662	4.9	4.9	-0.3
60-64	788	4.7	762	4.1	4.4	630	5.6	894	6.6	6.2	+1.8
Mature Age Group	(3,918)	(23.2)	(4,117)	(22.2)	(22.6)	(2,377)	(21.1)	(2,879)	(21.3)	(21.3)	(-1.3)
65-74	940	5.5	1,069	5.8	5.7	1,258	11.2	1,995	14.8	13.2	+7.5
75-over	367	2.2	469	2.5	2.4	825	7.3	1,842	13.7	10.8	+8.4
Retired Age Group	(1,307)	(7.7)	(1,538)	(8.3)	(8.1)	(2,083)	(18.5)	(3,837)	(28.5)	(24.0)	(+15.9)
TOTAL	16,908	100.0	18,583	100.0	100.0	11,271	100.0	13,459	100.0	100.0	-

Sources: 1962 Hazleton Comprehensive Policy Plan.
PA State Data Center.

¹ Included as 75 and over in 1950 data.

² Change in 75+ age group.

FIGURE 3-1
1950 - 1990 POPULATION PYRAMID



Source: PA State Data Center
GF, Inc.

1950
 1990

Table 3-4
 Comparison of Educational Attainment
 by Persons 25 Years and Over for Hazleton and Pennsylvania
 1980

	Pennsylvania		Hazleton	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Elementary (0 to 8 Years)	1,331,659	18.4	3,919	21.3
High School				
1 to 3 Years	1,225,084	16.9	3,190	17.3
4 Years	2,925,153	40.4	8,349	45.4
College				
1 to 3 Years	776,932	10.7	1,659	9.0
4 Years or More	<u>981,416</u>	<u>13.6</u>	<u>1,296</u>	<u>7.0</u>
Total	7,240,244	100.0	18,413	100.0

Source: PA State Data Center.

3.2.3 Income

The median income of a municipality is closely related to its educational achievement. It reflects the relative affluence of Hazleton and its ability to support needed public facilities and utilities. The 1979 and 1985 data provided in this section is the only data available until the 1990 census is published.

Table 3-5 contains a comparison of 1979 median household and family income and 1979 and 1985 mean per capita income for Hazleton and Pennsylvania. Hazleton's income levels are 3.6 to 10.6 percent lower than the corresponding Pennsylvania income levels. Perhaps more significantly, income levels are increasing slower in Hazleton than Pennsylvania. If this trend continues, the discrepancy between Pennsylvania and Hazleton income levels is likely to become larger. The income levels in a region influences the influx or out-migration of the labor force. Laborers are likely to relocate out of or refrain from locating within Hazleton if the income levels are not competitive with other areas.

Table 3-6 contains a breakdown of Hazleton household and family income by census tract so that specific areas with income deficiencies can be identified and be targeted with economic development programs and housing assistance programs. The census tract boundaries are shown on Figure 3-2.

Mean household income in 1979 varied from \$10,900 in tract 2,174 to \$21,273 in tract 2173. Tract 2172 has the next lowest mean household income (\$14,478). The remaining tracts have mean household incomes within five percent of the citywide mean household income. The low mean household income in tract 2174 is influenced by the high number of households (212) with incomes less than \$5,000 in 1979.

Mean family income in 1979 varied from \$15,215 in tract 2174 to \$24,139 in tract 2173. Tracts 2178, 2176 and 2172 also had relatively low mean family incomes of \$17,667, \$17,753 and \$17,879 respectively. The remaining tracts are within six percent of the citywide mean family income.

Poverty status is based upon income level and the number of adults and children in a household. In 1979, the poverty level for one person households was \$3,686. The poverty level for a four person household with two adults and two children in 1979 was \$7,356. The level varies with the number of persons in the household and the number of adults versus children.

Despite lower income levels than Pennsylvania residents as a whole, Hazleton has a lower percentage of persons and families below the poverty level. Only 9.6 percent of persons and 7.2 percent of Hazleton families were below the poverty level in 1979, as compared to 10.4 percent and 7.7 percent of Pennsylvania persons and families.

FIGURE 3-2
CENSUS TRACTS

Table 3-5
 Median Income Levels
 for Pennsylvania and Hazleton
 1979 and 1985

	<u>1979 Median Household Income¹</u>	<u>1979 Median Family Income²</u>	<u>1979 Mean Per Capita Income</u>	<u>1985 Mean Per Capita Income</u>	<u>Percent Increase 1979-85</u>
Pennsylvania	\$16,880	\$19,995	\$7,075	\$10,288	45.4%
Hazleton	\$16,057	\$19,269	\$6,360	\$ 9,198	44.6%

Source: PA State Data Center.

¹ Household income includes all persons occupying a housing unit.

² Family income includes the householder and all other persons in the household related by birth, marriage or adoption.

Table 3-6

Hazleton
Household and Family Income by Census Tract
1979

	2171		2172		2173		2174		2175		2176		2177		2178		Hazleton	
	House- holds	Families	House- holds	Families	House- holds	Families	House- holds	Families	House- holds	Families	House- holds	Families	House- holds	Families	House- holds	Families	House- holds	Families
Less Than \$2,500	72	32	28	0	31	23	70	7	77	13	48	15	56	26	52	16	434	132
2,500 - 4,999	127	27	152	40	73	21	142	38	186	53	113	33	239	55	115	27	1,147	294
5,000 - 7,499	213	74	196	89	126	32	90	24	166	45	163	68	292	179	165	84	1,411	595
7,500 - 9,999	92	86	190	128	106	70	89	63	145	73	151	76	185	129	91	62	1,049	687
10,000 - 12,499	208	171	89	53	159	123	82	48	157	125	127	101	192	166	150	110	1,164	897
12,500 - 14,999	109	98	72	58	96	87	21	21	76	64	154	145	198	181	153	129	879	783
15,000 - 17,499	113	107	78	69	136	111	30	23	107	103	101	84	242	201	132	117	939	815
17,500 - 19,999	100	95	75	64	100	93	51	34	38	26	68	62	154	141	91	82	677	597
20,000 - 22,499	96	89	73	79	114	114	18	18	37	17	71	57	124	124	125	119	658	617
22,500 - 24,999	65	65	57	51	96	96	28	28	78	71	64	52	109	109	44	39	541	511
25,000 - 27,499	53	53	61	70	99	99	19	19	28	28	32	32	90	90	88	88	470	479
27,500 - 29,999	50	44	34	34	65	56	17	17	0	0	32	32	79	79	61	61	338	323
30,000 - 34,999	70	70	32	28	57	57	7	7	47	47	31	24	74	74	51	40	369	347
35,000 - 39,999	42	42	22	17	41	41	6	6	14	20	34	26	52	52	23	23	234	227
40,000 - 49,999	26	26	29	29	73	65	6	6	19	13	25	25	23	23	7	7	208	194
50,000 - 74,999	11	11	0	0	31	31	0	0	18	12	11	5	23	23	5	5	99	87
75,000 or more	15	15	7	7	37	37	0	0	17	17	15	7	8	8	0	0	99	91
Median Income	\$12,936	\$16,507	\$10,885	\$16,449	\$17,371	\$20,395	\$ 8,511	\$12,474	\$10,494	\$14,629	\$12,792	\$14,724	\$13,838	\$16,169	\$14,191	\$16,635	\$12,935	\$16,380
Mean Income	\$15,944	\$19,033	\$14,478	\$17,879	\$21,273	\$24,139	\$10,900	\$15,215	\$16,249	\$21,878	\$15,736	\$17,753	\$15,650	\$18,195	\$15,307	\$17,667	\$16,057	\$19,269

Source: PA State Data Center.

Table 3-7 contains a summary of the number of persons and percent of persons below the poverty level by age for each census tract. The age group below 55 years constitutes the highest percentage of persons below the poverty level for each census tract. Tract 2174 has the highest percentage of persons below the poverty level by far. This correlates directly with the low income levels in this tract, as described previously.

3.3 Future Population Growth

Population projections for Hazleton have been made by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and the Luzerne County Planning Commission. Both projections are shown in Table 3-8.

In order to determine which projections will be most accurate, the 1990 Hazleton population count (24,730) was compared to the PADER and LCPC estimates. Since the 1990 count is between the PADER and LCPC estimates, it is reasonable that a growth projection between these two estimates is the most reasonable estimate of future population change.

The PADER projections show a drastic decrease of population during the twenty year planning period. It has been determined by the City and Gannett Fleming that the LCPC numbers are more reflective of the actual population base in the City. In order to execute sound planning practice, Gannett Fleming has developed a population projection range. The projected range was developed by Gannett Fleming, Inc. using a base low of 24,730 for 1990 and applying growth rates of 0.9 percent and 1.5 percent for 2000 and 2010. These growth rates are the same rates used by the County in their Hazleton projections. The range of population projections are shown in Table 3-9 and Figure 3-3.

3.4 Summary

Hazleton has lost an average of approximately 8.8 percent of it's population each decade since it's peak in 1940. These losses have resulted in a population today that is older and one third smaller than it was at it's peak. However, the educational attainment, age and sex distribution of the current population is well suited to service the industrial growth that is currently taking place. New industries that are now taking hold in and around the City will result in a turnaround of the trend of population losses and stimulate constant population growth in Hazleton, as evidenced by the more recent demand for housing sites.

Table 3-7

Hazleton Residents Below Poverty Level Status
by Age and Census Tract
1979

<u>Age</u>	<u>2171</u>	<u>2172</u>	<u>2173</u>	<u>2174</u>	<u>2175</u>	<u>2176</u>	<u>2177</u>	<u>2178</u>	<u>Hazleton</u>
Under 55 Years									
Number	153	264	65	186	197	219	376	232	1,692
Percent of Total	3.9	8.7	1.6	12.6	7.7	7.3	6.7	6.5	6.2
55-59 Years									
Number	14	19	0	13	14	0	28	13	101
Percent of Total	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4
60-64 Years									
Number	31	10	23	27	41	7	55	10	204
Percent of Total	0.8	0.3	0.6	1.8	1.6	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.8
65 and Over									
Number	57	72	50	97	92	65	126	70	629
Percent of Total	1.5	2.4	1.2	6.6	3.6	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.3
TOTAL									
Number	255	365	138	323	344	291	585	325	2,626
Percent of Total	6.6	12.0	3.4	21.9	13.5	9.7	10.5	9.2	9.7

Percentages were calculated by dividing the number of persons below poverty status level by the total number of persons surveyed for poverty level status (1979) per census tract and per Hazleton.

Source: PA State Data Center.

Table 3-8

Hazleton Population Projections

<u>Year</u>	<u>PADER</u>	<u>LCPC</u>
1980	27,318	27,318
1990	23,892	25,810
2000	20,780	26,040
2010	18,994	26,430

Sources: Luzerne County Planning Commission.
PA State Data Center.

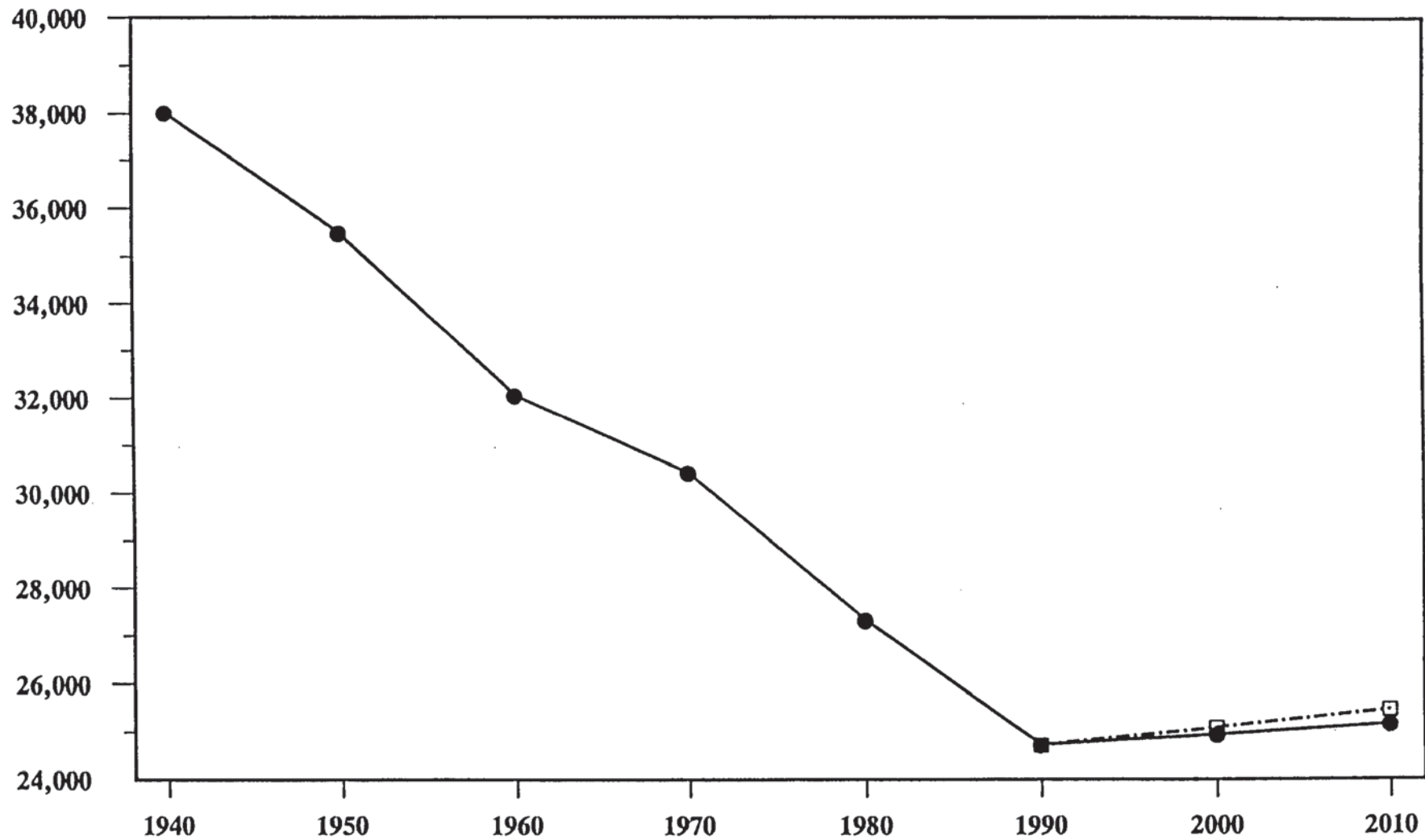
Table 3-9

Hazleton Historic and Projected
Population Levels
1940-2010

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Numerical Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
1940	38,009 (Peak)	-	--
1950	35,491	-2,518	- 6.6
1960	32,056	-3,435	- 9.7
1970	30,426	-1,630	- 5.1
1980	27,318	-3,108	-10.2
1990	24,730	-2,588	- 9.5
2000	24,950 - 25,100	+220 - +370	+ 0.9 - + 1.5
2010	25,170 - 25,480	+220 - +380	+ 0.9 - + 1.5

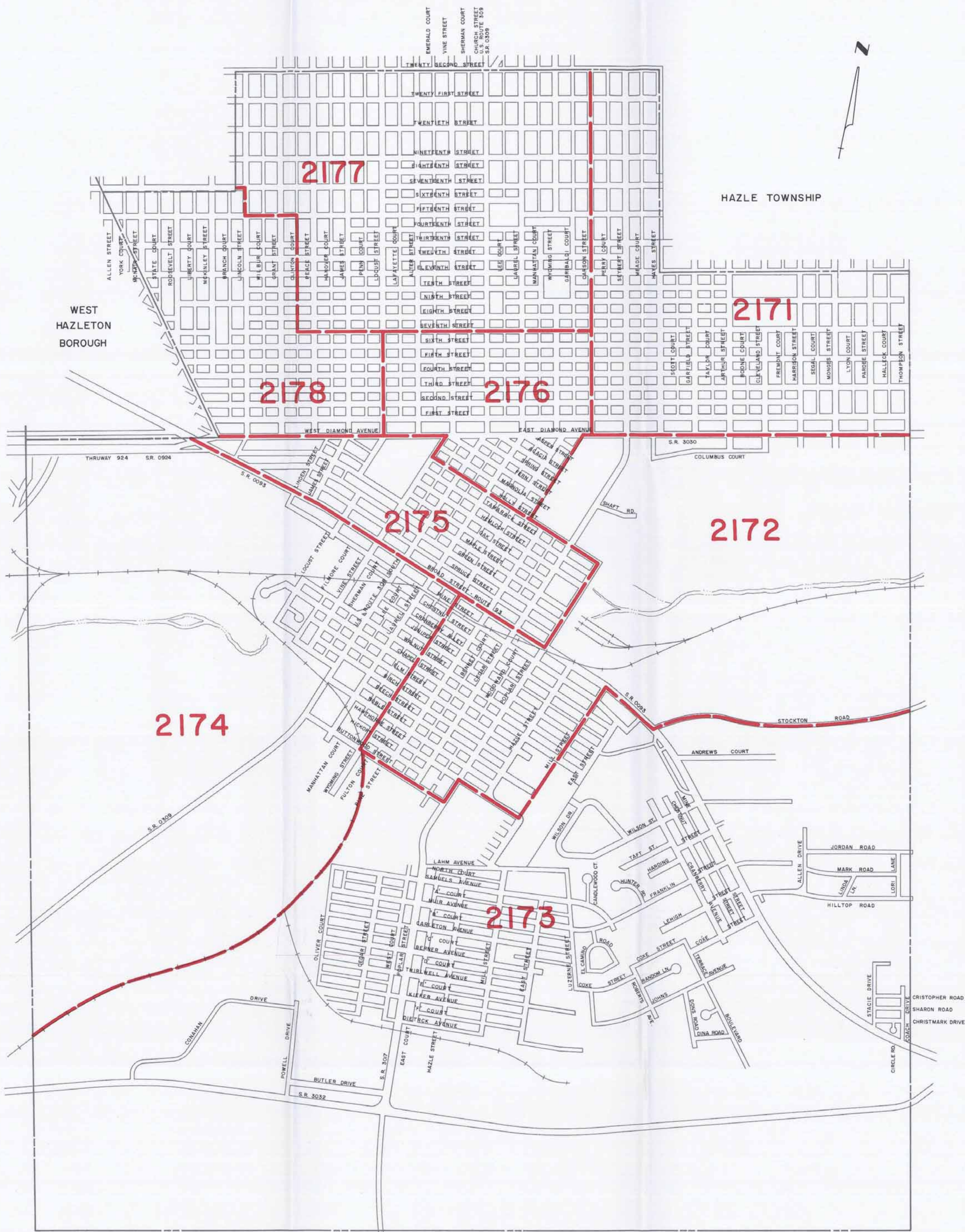
Sources: 1962 Hazleton Comprehensive Policy Plan
 U.S. Census Bureau
 GF, Inc.
 Luzerne County Planning Commission

FIGURE 3-3
HAZLETON HISTORIC AND PROJECTED
POPULATION LEVELS
1940 - 2010



Source: US Census Bureau
Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Census Gannett Fleming
—●— - - - □ - - -



WEST
HAZLETON
BOROUGH

HAZLE TOWNSHIP

HAZLE TOWNSHIP

CITY OF HAZLETON
LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
CENSUS TRACTS



GANNETT FLEMING ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS, INC.
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

FIGURE 3-2