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- [Bickfords and Peter F. Mallon](#)
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- [Extrin](#)
- [Roto-Broil](#)
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- [Slicklen Paper](#)
- [Sternberger](#)
- [National Casket](#)
- [Brenner Paper](#)
- [Louis Sherry](#)
- [Speed Queen](#)
- [American Steel Wool](#)
- [Web Offset](#)
- [Astoria Lumber](#)
- [West Chemical](#)
- [Blissville Yard](#)
- [Jacobson & Son](#)
- [Stoll Metal](#)
- [Marlyn Warehouse](#)
- [Yard A](#)
- [Dutch Kills Lift Bridge](#)
- [Carbona Products](#)
- [Centre Lumber](#)

[Back to Transportation](#)


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### VOLUME 17: LONG ISLAND RAILROAD SERVICE TO LONG ISLAND CITY'S WEST CHEMICAL

By Nicholas Kalis

Seventeenth in a series of glimpses into industries or warehouses that made for interesting freight operations on the Long Island. Information presented has included, where available, a brief history of the firm, how it was served by the LIRR, and what commodities were received or shipped from this facility.

*Maps of Freight Stations and Private Sidings* (1966), page 2, puts West (Spots 13a and 13b), located in Long Island City, facing Yard A. Spot 13b was the shipping department and had its own siding. The *Hyde Atlas*, Queens Vol. 1, updated through 1955, places this building to its west known as Spot 13a bounded by Yard A, Orchard Street, and West Street (formerly *Barn Street*). Spot 13b was bound by Queens Boulevard, Yard A, and West Street. Local phone directories list West's address as 42-16 West Street. According to Carl Fabrizio, both of these buildings possess a *West Street* address.



Street map of Long Island City with West Chemical location indicated by a red star. Credit: Yahoo!

Tank cars carried



"West Disinfecting Co." Credit: LIRR Calendar

chemicals (of what source I must rely on our readers to fill in) into this facility by rail. J.J. Earl recalls that these tank cars were black and lettered TTTX. These tank cars originated in originating cities or towns yet to be uncovered from the industries whose names we have yet to uncover. Howie Waelder seems to recall that in the 1960s disinfectants were shipped out by box cars. Empties may have also left this facility by rail. The Stink Track took its name from the disinfectants manufactured here. According to Richard F. Makse, West manufactured Pine Sol disinfectant.

A five-story poured concrete structure -marked by a siding entering the building - housed the manufacturing plant known variously as "CN Building", "West Chemical Products", or "West Disinfectants". Spot 13b featured a arched roof parapet on its east side with a truncated corner. An angled structure, likely containing a conveyor belt connects the building (Spot 13b) from its left side to a brick/poured concrete three-story building sporting a CN logo in relief. This logo building (Spot 13a) was painted white.



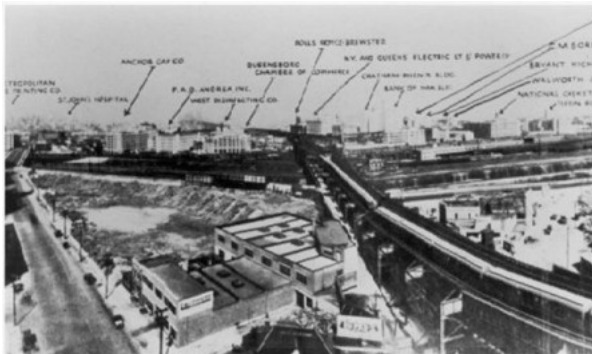
West Building and West Annex (AKA CN Building). Buildings appear abandoned. Credit: Bill Myers Collection

In all there were three buildings. West's shipping department (Spot 13b) was yet another attached two-story building of poured concrete/cinder block construction with a flat roof. Spot 13b was painted white or beige in the 1960s.



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West Chemical is shown in left center foreground. Credit: The LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, LaGuardia Community College/The City University of New York

#### Modeling

I have built a foam core mock-up of this building. Readers with wishing to model Spot 13a would be wise to consider starting with *Geo Roberts Printing Inc.* marketed under the Walthers name and catalogued as 933-3046. Modelers would need to modify this kit to depict a poured concrete first floor with tracks entering the building.

#### Credits

Thanks to Richard F. Makse, Howie Waelderr, Carl Fabrizio, and Bill Myers

#### Bibliography

Author Unknown *Maps of Freight Stations and Private Sidings* (Reprint) June 1966

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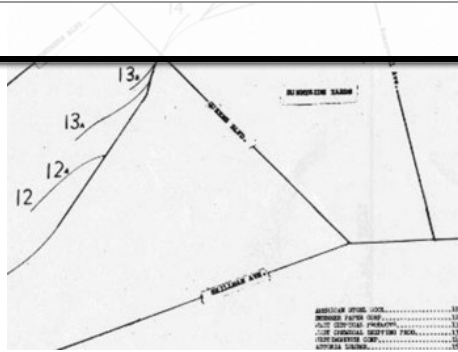
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Maps of Freight Stations and Private Sidings 1966 showing West Chemical as Spots 13a and 13b.

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