

ibm east fishkill history

IBM East Fishkill History: A Deep Dive into Innovation and Impact

ibm east fishkill history is a fascinating journey through one of the most significant technology manufacturing sites in the United States. Located in East Fishkill, New York, this IBM facility has played a pivotal role in the evolution of semiconductor technology, shaping not only IBM's trajectory but also influencing the broader tech industry. To truly appreciate the impact of IBM East Fishkill, it's important to explore its origins, technological milestones, workforce dynamics, and its ongoing legacy.

The Origins of IBM East Fishkill

The IBM East Fishkill plant was established in the late 1960s, a period marked by rapid expansion in computer hardware and semiconductor manufacturing. IBM chose East Fishkill for its strategic location—close enough to the company's headquarters in Armonk, New York, yet situated in a relatively quiet, rural area that could accommodate large-scale industrial operations.

Originally, the facility was designed to support IBM's burgeoning semiconductor division, manufacturing integrated circuits that powered the company's mainframe computers and other hardware products. This move was part of IBM's broader strategy to vertically integrate its supply chain, ensuring tighter control over the quality and innovation of its components.

Why East Fishkill?

Several factors influenced IBM's decision to build a plant in East Fishkill:

- **Access to Skilled Workforce:** The proximity to universities and technical colleges in New York meant IBM could tap into a well-educated labor pool.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** Easy access to major highways and rail lines facilitated efficient logistics and distribution.
- **Economic Incentives:** Local and state governments offered incentives to encourage high-tech investment in the region.

Technological Advancements and Contributions

IBM East Fishkill quickly became a hub for semiconductor innovation. The facility was at the forefront of developing and manufacturing some of IBM's most critical chips, including those used in mainframe computers, which dominated enterprise computing for decades.

Semiconductor Manufacturing Breakthroughs

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, IBM East Fishkill pioneered several advances in semiconductor fabrication technology, such as:

- **Photolithography Techniques:** Enhancements that allowed for smaller, more complex integrated circuits.
- **Cleanroom Innovations:** The facility developed cutting-edge cleanroom environments essential for contamination-free chip production.
- **Chip Design and Testing:** IBM East Fishkill was integral in refining chip architectures and testing protocols to improve performance and reliability.

These advancements not only boosted IBM's product quality but also contributed to the overall progress of the semiconductor industry. The East Fishkill site became synonymous with precision engineering and high-volume manufacturing excellence.

Role in IBM's System/360 and System/370

The chips produced at East Fishkill were critical components in IBM's System/360 and System/370 mainframes—machines that revolutionized business computing by offering unprecedented processing power and compatibility. This success helped cement IBM's dominance in enterprise computing throughout the 20th century.

Workforce and Community Impact

IBM East Fishkill was more than just a manufacturing plant; it became a vital part of the local community and economy. At its peak, the facility employed thousands of workers, ranging from engineers and scientists to assembly line operators and administrative staff.

Creating Jobs and Economic Growth

The plant's presence brought significant economic benefits to East Fishkill and the surrounding areas. It stimulated local businesses, increased demand for housing, and fostered community development. Many families in the region found stable, well-paying

jobs at the IBM facility, contributing to a thriving middle class.

Employee Training and Development

IBM invested heavily in workforce training and education programs. Employees at East Fishkill had access to continuous learning opportunities, including technical workshops, certification courses, and internal knowledge-sharing initiatives. This focus on human capital development helped maintain high productivity and innovation levels at the plant.

Challenges and Changes Over Time

Like many technology manufacturing sites, IBM East Fishkill faced its share of challenges, especially as the semiconductor industry evolved and global competition intensified.

Industry Shifts and Globalization

By the late 1990s and early 2000s, semiconductor manufacturing began shifting overseas to countries with lower labor costs. This trend put pressure on facilities like East Fishkill to either adapt or downsize. IBM gradually started outsourcing some production, which led to workforce reductions and operational restructuring at the plant.

Changing Focus and Modernization

In response, IBM East Fishkill diversified its activities, moving beyond chip manufacturing into areas such as research and development, testing, and specialized production. The facility also modernized its equipment to handle more advanced semiconductor processes, although the scale of manufacturing decreased compared to earlier decades.

The Legacy and Future of IBM East Fishkill

Despite the challenges, IBM East Fishkill remains an important landmark in the history of technology manufacturing. Its legacy is reflected in the many innovations that originated there and the skilled professionals it nurtured.

Influence on the Semiconductor Industry

The pioneering work done at East Fishkill contributed to shaping semiconductor fabrication standards that are still in use today. Many engineers and scientists who began their careers at IBM East Fishkill went on to influential roles in the broader tech industry,

spreading the plant's culture of innovation.

Continued Operations and Repurposing

In recent years, parts of the East Fishkill site have been repurposed for new technology ventures, including partnerships with semiconductor startups and research organizations. IBM has maintained a presence there, focusing on niche technological areas and leveraging the site's infrastructure.

Insights for Technology Hubs

The IBM East Fishkill history offers valuable lessons for current and future technology hubs. It highlights the importance of strategic location choices, investment in workforce development, and the need to adapt to shifting industry landscapes to stay relevant.

Exploring the story of IBM East Fishkill reveals much about the evolution of the tech industry in America. From its inception as a semiconductor powerhouse to its role in community building and innovation, the facility stands as a testament to the dynamic nature of technology and manufacturing over the past half-century. Whether you're interested in corporate history, semiconductor technology, or regional economic development, IBM East Fishkill's history offers a rich and engaging narrative worth exploring.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the IBM East Fishkill facility established?

The IBM East Fishkill facility was established in 1957 as a manufacturing and research center in East Fishkill, New York.

What was the primary purpose of the IBM East Fishkill site?

The IBM East Fishkill site primarily served as a semiconductor manufacturing and research facility, producing chips and advanced technology components.

How did IBM East Fishkill contribute to IBM's semiconductor business?

IBM East Fishkill was a key site for semiconductor innovation, producing microprocessors and advanced chips that powered IBM computers and other electronic devices.

What major technological advancements took place at IBM East Fishkill?

IBM East Fishkill was involved in the development of cutting-edge semiconductor technologies, including advancements in chip design and manufacturing processes.

Did IBM East Fishkill undergo any significant changes or ownership transitions?

Yes, in 2015, IBM sold the East Fishkill semiconductor manufacturing facility to GlobalFoundries, marking a major transition in ownership and operations.

What impact did the IBM East Fishkill facility have on the local community?

The IBM East Fishkill facility was a major employer in the region, contributing to local economic growth and technological development in Dutchess County.

What role did IBM East Fishkill play in IBM's overall corporate strategy?

IBM East Fishkill was central to IBM's hardware and semiconductor strategy, supporting research, development, and production of key components for IBM products.

How did IBM East Fishkill adapt to changes in the technology industry over the decades?

IBM East Fishkill shifted focus over time from traditional semiconductor manufacturing to cutting-edge research and later transitioned ownership to GlobalFoundries as part of IBM's strategic realignment.

Are there any notable products or innovations that originated from IBM East Fishkill?

Several important semiconductor chips and microprocessors used in IBM mainframes and other computing systems were developed and manufactured at East Fishkill.

What is the current status of the IBM East Fishkill facility?

As of recent years, the IBM East Fishkill semiconductor plant operates under GlobalFoundries, continuing its legacy as a major semiconductor manufacturing site.

Additional Resources

IBM East Fishkill History: A Detailed Examination of Its Evolution and Impact

ibm east fishkill history encapsulates the story of a pivotal manufacturing and research site that has played a significant role in IBM's technological advancements and the broader semiconductor industry. Situated in East Fishkill, New York, this facility has been central to IBM's efforts in chip fabrication, innovation, and strategic shifts over several decades. Understanding the IBM East Fishkill history provides valuable insights into the evolution of semiconductor manufacturing, corporate strategy in tech, and regional economic influences.

The Genesis of IBM East Fishkill Facility

The IBM East Fishkill site was established in the 1960s as part of IBM's expansion into semiconductor manufacturing. During this era, IBM was transitioning from traditional computing hardware into more specialized and advanced components, including integrated circuits and microchips. The choice of East Fishkill, located in Dutchess County, New York, was strategic due to its proximity to IBM's corporate headquarters in Armonk and its access to a skilled workforce.

Initially, the facility focused on developing and producing semiconductor devices that powered IBM's mainframe computers. As IBM's product lines evolved, so too did the East Fishkill plant, which became a hub for semiconductor innovation and production. The facility's growth mirrored broader technological trends, including the rise of Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) and the increasing complexity of chip designs in the 1980s and 1990s.

Technological Milestones at East Fishkill

Throughout its operational history, IBM East Fishkill has been at the forefront of several semiconductor breakthroughs. The site contributed to IBM's pioneering work in silicon wafer fabrication, photolithography techniques, and chip design methodologies. It also played a role in the development of copper interconnect technology, which significantly improved chip performance and reliability.

One notable aspect of the IBM East Fishkill history is its involvement in the fabrication of microprocessors and memory chips, which were integral to IBM's competitive edge in computing hardware. The facility's R&D efforts allowed IBM to maintain leadership in semiconductor technology, even as competitive pressures from other industry giants intensified.

Strategic Shifts and Economic Impact

The IBM East Fishkill plant not only served as a manufacturing site but also as a

barometer of IBM's strategic shifts in response to the evolving tech landscape. By the early 2000s, IBM began to pivot away from manufacturing towards services and software, reflecting industry-wide trends. This transition had direct implications for the East Fishkill site.

In 2014, IBM announced the sale of its semiconductor manufacturing operations, including the East Fishkill facility, to GlobalFoundries, a move that signaled a significant change in IBM's business model. This divestiture was part of IBM's strategy to focus more on cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and consulting services, while outsourcing chip fabrication to dedicated foundries.

The East Fishkill facility's transfer to GlobalFoundries brought new management and operational philosophies but also maintained its importance as a semiconductor manufacturing hub. The site's continued operation under GlobalFoundries has sustained local employment and economic activity, highlighting the facility's long-term regional significance.

Economic and Community Contributions

Over its decades of operation, IBM East Fishkill has been a major employer in Dutchess County, providing thousands of jobs ranging from manufacturing to engineering and administrative roles. The plant's presence has contributed to the local economy through direct employment, supplier relationships, and community engagement initiatives.

Furthermore, IBM's corporate responsibility programs at East Fishkill have supported educational and technological initiatives in the region. By partnering with local schools and universities, IBM helped cultivate a pipeline of skilled workers, fostering a symbiotic relationship between corporate and community development.

Comparative Insights: IBM East Fishkill and Industry Trends

When examining IBM East Fishkill history, it is essential to contextualize the site within broader semiconductor industry trends. The semiconductor sector has witnessed rapid technological advancements, fierce competition, and shifting manufacturing geographies over the past half-century.

Unlike other semiconductor giants that heavily invested in offshore manufacturing, IBM maintained significant domestic fabrication capabilities at East Fishkill for many years. This commitment reflected IBM's integrated approach to innovation and manufacturing but also presented challenges related to cost competitiveness.

The sale of the East Fishkill facility to GlobalFoundries aligns with a broader industry pattern where semiconductor companies increasingly specialize—separating chip design from fabrication. This foundry model allows companies like IBM to focus on core competencies while leveraging specialized manufacturers for production.

Features and Capabilities of the East Fishkill Facility

The East Fishkill plant has been equipped with state-of-the-art cleanrooms, photolithography equipment, and testing laboratories. Its capabilities have evolved from early planar transistor fabrication to the production of advanced logic and memory chips.

Some of the facility's key features include:

- Advanced wafer fabrication processes, including sub-micron lithography
- Integration of copper interconnect technology for enhanced chip performance
- Comprehensive testing and quality assurance systems to ensure product reliability
- Research and development units dedicated to process improvement and innovation

These features have allowed the East Fishkill site to remain competitive and technologically relevant through multiple semiconductor generations.

The Future Legacy of IBM East Fishkill

The IBM East Fishkill history is not merely a chronicle of past achievements but also a foundation for future developments in semiconductor manufacturing and innovation. Under GlobalFoundries' stewardship, the site continues to adapt to emerging technologies such as 7-nanometer process nodes and beyond.

Moreover, the facility's legacy underscores important themes in technological evolution: the interplay between innovation and manufacturing, the strategic recalibration of tech giants, and the socioeconomic impacts of large-scale industrial operations.

As the semiconductor industry navigates challenges like supply chain disruptions, geopolitical tensions, and increasing demand for advanced chips, the IBM East Fishkill story serves as a case study in resilience and transformation. It exemplifies how a single facility can influence technology trends, corporate strategy, and local economies over decades.

Through a nuanced exploration of IBM East Fishkill history, it becomes clear that this site has been far more than a manufacturing plant—it has been a crucible of technological progress and strategic adaptation within the dynamic landscape of the global semiconductor industry.

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ibm east fishkill history: History of Semiconductor Engineering Bo Lojek, 2007-07-28
performing ?rms were curtailed following the stock market decline and the subsequent economic slowdown of 2001 and 2002. The Federal Government was once the main source of the nation's R&D funds, funding as much as 66. 7 percent of all U. S. R&D in 1964. The Federal share ?rst fell below 50 percent in 1979, and after 1987 it fell steadily, dr- ping from 46. 3 percent in that year to 25. 1 percent in 2000 (the lowest it has ever been since 1953). Adjusting for in?ation, Federal support decreased 18 percent from 1987 to 2000, although in nominal terms, Federal support grew from \$58. 5 billion to \$66. 4 billion during that period. Growth in industrial funding generally outpaced growth in Federal support, leading to the decline in Federal support as a proportion of the total. Fig. 2. Doctorates awarded in Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics: 1995-2002 [Source: National Science Foundation NSF 04-303 (October 2003)] Figure 1 explains the most signi?cant change in the industry which occurred in the early sixties. The industry, with pressure from Wall Street, could not ?nance long-range and risky basic research. The objective of basic research is to gain more comprehensive knowledge or understanding of the subject under study without speci?c applications in mind. Basic research advances scienti?c knowledge but does not have speci?c immediate commercial objectives. Basic research can fail and often will not bring results in a short period of time.

ibm east fishkill history: Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook 1985 Vol. 070
John and Mary Lou Jeanneney, 1985-12-01 The 1985 issue of the annual Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook, Dutchess County, New York. Since 1914.

ibm east fishkill history: To the Digital Age Ross Knox Bassett, 2007-02-22 The metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) transistor is the fundamental element of digital electronics. The tens of millions of transistors in a typical home -- in personal computers, automobiles, appliances, and toys -- are almost all derive from MOS transistors. To the Digital Age examines for the first time the history of this remarkable device, which overthrew the previously dominant bipolar transistor and made digital electronics ubiquitous. Combining technological with corporate history, To the Digital Age examines the breakthroughs of individual innovators as well as the research and development power (and problems) of large companies such as IBM, Intel, and Fairchild. Bassett discusses how the MOS transistor was invented but spurned at Bell Labs, and then how, in the early 1960s, spurred on by the possibilities of integrated circuits, RCA, Fairchild, and IBM all launched substantial MOS R & D programs. The development of the MOS transistor involved an industry-wide effort, and Bassett emphasizes how communication among researchers from different firms played a critical role in advancing the new technology. Bassett sheds substantial new light on the development of the integrated circuit, Moore's Law, the success of Silicon Valley start-ups as compared to vertically integrated East Coast firms, the development of the microprocessor, and IBM's multi-billion-dollar losses in the early 1990s. To the Digital Age offers a captivating account of the intricate R & D process behind a technological device that transformed modern society.

ibm east fishkill history: The History of the GPU - New Developments Jon Peddie, 2023-01-01 This third book in the three-part series on the History of the GPU covers the second to sixth eras of the GPU, which can be found in anything that has a display or screen. The GPU is now part of supercomputers, PCs, Smartphones and tablets, wearables, game consoles and handhelds, TVs, and every type of vehicle including boats and planes. In the early 2000s the number of GPU suppliers consolidated to three whereas now, the number has expanded to almost 20. In 2022 the GPU market was worth over \$250 billion with over 2.2 billion GPUs being sold just in PCs, and more than 10 billion in smartphones. Understanding the power and history of these devices is not only a fascinating tale, but one that will aid your understanding of some of the developments in consumer electronics, computers, new automobiles, and your fitness watch.

ibm east fishkill history: The Corporation and the Twentieth Century Richard N. Langlois,

2025-06-24 A definitive reframing of the economic, institutional, and intellectual history of the managerial era The twentieth century was the managerial century in the United States. An organizational transformation, from entrepreneurial to managerial capitalism, brought forth what became a dominant narrative: that administrative coordination by trained professional managers is essential to the efficient running of organizations both public and private. And yet if managerialism was the apotheosis of administrative efficiency, why did both its practice and the accompanying narrative lie in ruins by the end of the century? In *The Corporation and the Twentieth Century*, Richard Langlois offers an alternative version: a comprehensive and nuanced reframing and reassessment of the economic, institutional, and intellectual history of the managerial era. Langlois argues that managerialism rose to prominence not because of its inherent superiority but because of its contingent value in a young and rapidly developing American economy. The structures of managerialism solidified their dominance only because the century's great catastrophes of war, depression, and war again superseded markets, scrambled relative prices, and weakened market-supporting institutions. By the end of the twentieth century, Langlois writes, these market-supporting institutions had reemerged to shift advantage toward entrepreneurial and market-driven modes of organization. This magisterial new account of the rise and fall of managerialism holds significant implications for contemporary debates about industrial and antitrust policies and the role of the corporation in the twenty-first century.

ibm east fishkill history: A History of John and Rebecca Murley from Cornwall, England, and Their Descendants Margaret Reba Murley, 1990 John Murley (1819-1870) was a son of William Murley and Ann Friggens. He married Rebecca Andrew and they immigrated to Hazel Green, Wisconsin in 1849. Descendants lived in Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, and elsewhere.

ibm east fishkill history: *Genealogical History of Black Families of Orange County, New York* Robert W. Brennan, 2004

ibm east fishkill history: East Fishkill Malcolm J. Mills, 2006 In Revolutionary days, East Fishkill was on the route of an important highway from Boston to the Hudson River, traveled by Gen. George Washington, Gen. John Burgoyne, and John Jay. The town separated from Fishkill in 1849 and received its own charter. East Fishkill remained a mainly agricultural community until 1960, when IBM opened a chip-manufacturing plant in town. Then it changed dramatically: the farmland disappeared under housing and commercial development. East Fishkill offers a fascinating glimpse of life in the town while it was still rural.

ibm east fishkill history: *Regional Renaissance* Charles W. Wessner, Thomas R. Howell, 2019-09-14 This book examines ways in which formerly prosperous regions can renew their economy during and after a period of industrial and economic recession. Using New York's Capital Region (i.e., Albany, Troy, Schenectady, etc.) as a case study, the authors show how entrepreneurship, innovation, investment in education, research and political collaboration are critical to achieving regional success. In this way, the book provides other regions and nations with a real-life model for successful economic development. In the past half century, the United States and other nations have seen an economic decline of formerly prosperous regions as a result of new technology and globalization. One of the hardest-hit United States regions is Upstate New York or "the Capital Region"; it experienced a demoralizing hemorrhage of manufacturing companies, jobs and people to other regions and countries. To combat this, the region, with the help of state leaders, mounted a decades-long effort to renew and restore the region's economy with a particular focus on nanotechnology. As a result, New York's Capital Region successfully added thousands of well-paying, skill-intensive manufacturing jobs. New York's success story serves as a model for economic development for policy makers that includes major public investments in educational institutions and research infrastructure; partnerships between academia, industry and government; and creation of frameworks for intra-regional collaboration by business, government, and academic actors. Featuring recommendations for best practices in regional development policy, this book is appropriate for scholars, students, researchers and policy makers in regional development, innovation, R&D policy, economic development and economic growth.

ibm east fishkill history: IBM James W. Cortada, 2023-08-01 A history of one of the most influential American companies of the last century. For decades, IBM shaped the way the world did business. IBM products were in every large organization, and IBM corporate culture established a management style that was imitated by companies around the globe. It was "Big Blue," an icon. And yet over the years, IBM has gone through both failure and success, surviving flatlining revenue and forced reinvention. The company almost went out of business in the early 1990s, then came back strong with new business strategies and an emphasis on artificial intelligence. In this authoritative, monumental history, James Cortada tells the story of one of the most influential American companies of the last century. Cortada, a historian who worked at IBM for many years, describes IBM's technology breakthroughs, including the development of the punch card (used for automatic tabulation in the 1890 census), the calculation and printing of the first Social Security checks in the 1930s, the introduction of the PC to a mass audience in the 1980s, and the company's shift in focus from hardware to software. He discusses IBM's business culture and its orientation toward employees and customers; its global expansion; regulatory and legal issues, including antitrust litigation; and the track records of its CEOs. The secret to IBM's unequalled longevity in the information technology market, Cortada shows, is its capacity to adapt to changing circumstances and technologies.

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ibm east fishkill history: Law and Economics Margaret Oppenheimer, Nicholas Mercuro, 2015-06-01 The economic analysis of legal and regulatory issues need not be limited to the neoclassical economic approach. The expert contributors to this work employ a variety of heterodox legal-economic theories to address a broad range of legal issues. They demonstrate how these various approaches can lead to very different conclusions concerning the role of the law and legal intervention in a wide array of contexts. The schools of thought and methodologies represented here

include institutional economics, new institutional economics, socio-economics, social economics, behavioral economics, game theory, feminist economics, Rawlsian economics, radical economics, Austrian economics, and personalist economics. The legal and regulatory issues examined include anti-trust and competition, corporate governance, the environment and natural resources, land use and property rights, unions and collective bargaining, welfare benefits, work-time regulation and standards, sexual harassment in the workplace, obligations of employers and employees to each other, crime, torts, and even the structure of government. Each contributor brings a different emphasis and provides thoughtful, sometimes provocative analysis and conclusions. Together, these heterodox insights will provide valuable supplementary reading for courses in law and economics as well as public policy and business courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

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ibm east fishkill history: The Encyclopedia of New York State Peter Eisenstadt, 2005-05-19 The Encyclopedia of New York State is one of the most complete works on the Empire State to be published in a half-century. In nearly 2,000 pages and 4,000 signed entries, this single volume captures the impressive complexity of New York State as a historic crossroads of people and ideas, as a cradle of abolitionism and feminism, and as an apex of modern urban, suburban, and rural life. The Encyclopedia is packed with fascinating details from fields ranging from sociology and geography to history. Did you know that Manhattan's Lower East Side was once the most populated neighborhood in the world, but Hamilton County in the Adirondacks is the least densely populated county east of the Mississippi; New York is the only state to border both the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean; the Erie Canal opened New York City to rich farmland upstate . . . and to the west. Entries by experts chronicle New York's varied areas, politics, and persuasions with a cornucopia of subjects from environmentalism to higher education to railroads, weaving the state's diverse regions and peoples into one idea of New York State. Lavishly illustrated with 500 photographs and figures, 120 maps, and 140 tables, the Encyclopedia is key to understanding the state's past, present, and future. It is a crucial reference for students, teachers, historians, and business people, for New Yorkers of all persuasions, and for anyone interested in finding out more about New York State.

ibm east fishkill history: Environmental Health Perspectives , 1999

ibm east fishkill history: Polymer Surfaces and Interfaces K. L. Mittal, K. W. Lee, 1997-04 Polymeric materials are used for a legion of applications in a wide array of technological areas, and their proper surface/interface characteristics are of cardinal importance for their applications. Therefore, the need to characterize polymer surfaces/interfaces and their suitable modification to impart desired characteristics is quite patent. This book chronicles the proceedings of the Symposium on Polymer Surfaces and Interfaces: Characterization, Modification and Application held as a part of the Society of Plastics Engineers Annual Technical Conference, Boston, May 7-11, 1995. The articles in this book address many aspects of polymer surfaces and interfaces. Topics covered include: various ways (chemical, photochemical, laser, flame, corona) to modify polymer surfaces; modification of contact lens surfaces; various ways to analyze/characterize polymer surfaces; metal/polymer interfaces; metal/polyimide adhesion; metal/self-assembled organic monolayer interfaces; polymer alignment layers for liquid crystals; alignment of liquid crystal surfaces; polyimide alignment layers; molecular re-orientation of polymer surfaces; plasma polymerized organic coatings; epoxy/fiber interphase; epoxy underfill materials for packaging integrated circuits; transport in polymers; polymer miscibility; and cell adhesion.

ibm east fishkill history: Main Street to Mainframes Harvey K. Flad, Clyde C. Griffen, 2010-03-25 The history of growth, decline, and revitalization in Poughkeepsie, New York, parallels that of many other small northeastern cities. Main Street to Mainframes tells the story of Poughkeepsie's transformation over the past three centuries—from an agricultural market town, to a

small city with a diversified economy centered on Main Street, to an urban region dependent on the success of one corporation—and how this transformation has affected the lives and landscape of its inhabitants. As it adjusted to major changes in agriculture, transportation, and industry, Poughkeepsie was also shaped by the forces and tensions of immigration and race. The voices of immigrant and migrant newcomers, from the Germans, Irish, and African Americans of the nineteenth century to the Italians, Poles, and Latinos of the twentieth, enliven the narrative and offer personal perspectives on the social and demographic shifts that have taken place over the years. The book also places Poughkeepsie in the context of the mid-Hudson Valley's other cities—Kingston, Newburgh, and Hudson—as they competed from the colonial period onward. Finally, the book examines recent revitalization efforts based on tourism, culture, and the arts. More than just a local history, *Main Street to Mainframes* addresses important issues in urban and regional planning, community development, and sociology. Like a palimpsest, Poughkeepsie shows how past landscapes live on in the present, and how, over time, popular perceptions both shape and reflect urban and rural realities.

ibm east fishkill history: [The Great American Jobs Scam](#) Greg LeRoy, 2005-07-21 For the past 20 years, corporations have been receiving huge tax breaks and subsidies in the name of jobs, jobs, jobs. But, as Greg LeRoy demonstrates in this important new book, it's become a costly scam. Playing states and communities off against each other in a bidding war for jobs, corporations reduce their taxes to next-to-nothing and win subsidy packages that routinely exceed \$100,000 per job. But the subsidies come with few strings attached. So companies feel free to provide fewer jobs, or none at all, or even outsource and lay people off. They are also free to pay poverty wages without health care or other benefits. All too often, communities lose twice. They lose jobs--or gain jobs so low-paying they do nothing to help the community--and lose revenue due to the huge corporate tax breaks. That means fewer resources for maintaining schools, public services, and infrastructure. In the end, the local governments that were hoping for economic revitalization are actually worse off. They're forced to raise taxes on struggling small businesses and working families, or reduce services, or both. Greg LeRoy uses up-to-the-minute examples, naming names--including Wal-Mart, Raytheon, Fidelity, Bank of America, Dell, and Boeing--to reveal how the process works. He shows how carefully corporations orchestrate the bidding wars between states and communities. He exposes shadowy site location consultants who play both sides against the middle, and he dissects government and corporate mumbo-jumbo with plain talk. The book concludes by offering common-sense reforms that will give taxpayers powerful new tools to deter future abuses and redirect taxpayer investments in ways that will really pay off.

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