Many years ago the lower terrace gravels were worked extensively along the canal about two miles below the mouth of the Lehigh River. They were shipped by canal boat to Philadelphia and other points along the Delaware River.

Three-quarters of a mile south of Georgetown a sand and gravel pit was formerly operated in a deposit of glacial material, which consists of fine buff to yellow stratified sand overlain by five feet of red plastic boulder clay that contains pebbles and boulders of quartz, siliceous sandstone, and slate.

Alluvial sand and gravel.—Along Lehigh River alluvial deposits occur at many places, and the islands in the river also are composed of alluvial debris. In most places the alluvium consists of mud in which there is a large admixture of anthracite dust, but in a few places deposits contain much sand and gravel. Between Freemansburg and Redington the alluvial gravels have been dug for ballast in several places.

Sand from mud-dam deposits of limonite iron mines.—In the discussion of ocher a description is given of the character of the deposits in the ponds into which the waste material of the limonite mines was washed. The coarsest sand was deposited near the place where the water entered the pond, and the finer sediment was carried farther out. This sand, which consists of small grains of quartz, quartz crystals, botryoidal chaledony, thin flakes of limonite, and a few fragments of shale, limestone, and quartzite, is mixed with considerable ocherous clay. Even when the mines were in operation this sand was sometimes used for ordinary plaster and mortar, and since the mines were closed sand for these uses has been dug from many of the old deposits that are common throughout the region. In some places several feet of sand comparatively free from clay can be obtained, but in most places layers of clay are so closely interstratified with the sand that clean sand is hard to get. If the material were washed a large quantity of good sand could be procured from almost every mud-dam deposit in the county. Notwithstanding the difference in occurrence, the sand from the limonite mines in the limestone and that from the mines in the quartzite are strikingly similar.

In working these deposits it is usually necessary to screen the material to remove any large fragments. The annual production of this type of sand in the county formerly came mainly from a deposit one mile northeast of Hellertown. The sand was sold for 35 to 45 cents a ton at the pit, or 75 to 85 cents delivered.