



# From centre of commerce to community and administration centre

*As in other areas, the integration of Waren into the German railway network in the 1880s triggered an industrial boom in the town. Businesses looking to take advantage of the new transport route set up shop around the train station and along the tracks*

## The Waren dairies

With the construction of two dairies, a centre of commerce was established on Rabengasse, the street running between the train station and port.

A dairy collective established in 1889 wanted to market and profit from the milk being produced by the landowners and tenant farmers around Waren. 32,491.5 kg of butter was shipped off to Berlin in the first half of 1899 alone. Another company, Natura-Milch-Export-Gesellschaft, set up shop next door in 1890 in order to export milk. Starting in 1891, this company produced condensed milk, processing 500 litres of milk a day. This sterilised milk and cream that „lasted forever“ received countless awards at trade fairs. Up until the First World War, their products were exclusively exported, supplying German shipping companies and African and Asian countries that were short on milk with heat-treated, unsweetened tinned milk.

In 1937, Natura was taken over by the Glücksklee-Milchgesellschaft Hamburg (founded in 1923 by Otto Lagerfeld, father of Karl Lagerfeld). The factory in Waren was upgraded to a state-of-the-art facility. After the Second World War, the Glücksklee dairy was shut down in 1946 due to a short supply of milk and the Waren Dairy was re-established as a collective which subsequently became the Publicly Owned Enterprise (POE), the „Naschkatze“ Waren dairy in 1948. Production began again in 1979 at the Müritz milk farm (POE), in Waren West.



*„Naschkatze“ dairy building*



*View of the dairy around 1890*



*Chair and seating furniture manufacture between 1960 and 1990*

## The „chair factory

The street of Rabengasse remained a centre of commerce even after the departure of the Müritz milk farm. The Waren chair and seating furniture factory (POE), which emerged from the POE timber factory in 1960 and had previously been located on Strandstraße, moved into the old production halls of the „Glücksklee-Milchgesellschaft“ in 1961. The Waren „chair factory“ continued producing chairs, most recently under the management of the Ribnitz-Damgarten furniture combine, until the plant shut down in 1990. The Rabengasse area was also affected by the laying of railway lines for the complex transport network between 1974 and 1977. A block of company-owned flats, the German Imperial Railway signal box, and the buildings of the buy-and-supply collective of metal workers and chemical industry warehouses were all torn down.

All that remained here after 1977 was the chair and seating furniture factory (POE) and a warehouse for the metal buy-and-supply collective. Initially, newly established small enterprises were still using parts of the building in 1990. After these companies left, the area became an industrial wasteland.



*Zum Amtsbrink – new address for the community and administration centre*

## The community and administration centre

The merging of the Districts of Waren and Röbel to create the District of Müritz in 1994 created the need for buildings to house the central district administration. Together with the Town of Waren (Müritz), the community and administration centre was developed on the old industrial wasteland as previously the municipal administration had been spread across multiple different buildings around the town. The rest of the wasteland was liquidated in 1995 and work began on the new municipal and district administration buildings.



*Lively scenes on Children's Day*

The administration received the keys and moved in to their new home in December 1997. The foundation stone for the civic centre, with a cinema, library and civic hall, was laid the following year. The handover ceremony took place in December 1999. The District Court moved into the new justice building in 2004. A modern youth centre was also built here thanks to a generous donation from Jost Reinhold. Named „JOO!“, this striking building was the final piece of the community and administration centre and was completed in 2016.

*The official representatives of the Town of Waren passed a resolution on 12 November 1997 to rename the square in front of the community and administration centre „Zum Amtsbrink“. The word „Brink“ is frequently used in Mecklenburg to describe areas that are for „common use“. „Brink“ also often stands for a so-called „Anger“ (a small area of grass) and for an area located at the centre of a place.*



*Town Administration*



*JOO! Youth Centre*