

Medina Railway Depot: 305 S. Court St.

In 1881, the freshly minted Pittsburgh, Akron, & Western (PAW) Railroad constructed the original rail line through the heart of South Town. The track ran from Delphos to Akron. Akron's rubber boom in the 1920's kept the rail line active through the middle of the 20th century.

In 1982, it was acquired by the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad. The depot was demolished in the mid 20th century.

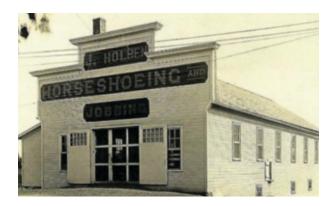






Eggelston Blacksmith Shop: 113 W. Smith Rd.

Originally constructed in 1874 as Eggelston's Blacksmith Shop, this building served Medina's blacksmithing needs for more than half a century. Gil & Dreher opened a machine shop here in 1925, retaining the original brick facade and storefront. In 1946, it became the Medina Machine Shop. In 2009, the building was renovated and the facade was restored. Today, it is home to Thyme2, a fine-dining restaurant.



Holben Horseshoeing & Jobbing: E. Smith Rd.

From 1880 to 1912, J. Holben Horseshoeing & Jobbing stood at the corner of E. Smith Rd. and S. Court St. serving visitors at the adjacent Union House Hotel and local horse owners and farriers. By 1920, the Gibbs brothers purchased the property and the neighboring western lot and opened a car dealership.

Research provided by Robert Hyde, Beyond the Storefronts (www.medinasquare.org)

Download the History Walk brochure from our website at www.mainstreetmedina.com/South-Town-District.

South Town History

Welcome to the South Town District: Historic Medina's Industrial Roots



South Court Street Industries

During the 1900s, S. Court St. was the main corridor into the "south end" of the Village of Medina. The Farmers Exchange functioned as a center of agricultural commerce for local grain and crops, the old Hickox Planing Mill was replaced by the Medina Marble and Granite Works, and B. H. Wood Flour & Feed Store operated along the Pittsburgh, Akron & Western Railroad.

The original Farmers Exchange



Medina Granite & Marble Works



B.H. Wood Flour & Feed Store







The South Town District was considered the "south end" of the Village of Medina with a few dozen homes surrounded by acres of rural farmland, with several blacksmith shops and livery stables along Smith Rd.

By 1885, the Industrial Age sparked construction of the Pennsylvania & Akron-Canton Railroad that served emerging grain mills and lumber yards. As the City expanded, the south end grew to accommodate public utilities, warehouses, and building supplies.

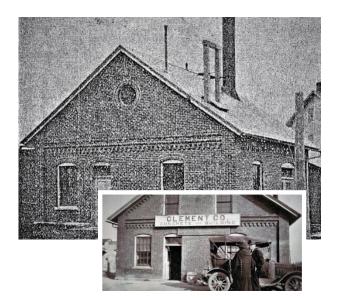
In the 1920s, the South Town District thrived as the industrial center of Medina, mostly along the railroad and Champion Creek. Medina continued to thrive amidst the Great Depression.

In the 1930s-40s, filling stations popped up as the nation transitioned into the "age of the automobile." Commercial goods and services replaced industry. By the 1960s, South Town became predominately "auto-oriented" for modern convenience, with parking in front and buildings set back.

By the 1980s, commercial plazas, office buildings, and apartment complexes replaced outdated buildings, completing the development of the district from rural and residential to industrial and automotive focused.

Today, the South Town community is reimagining its identity to be more pedestrian-friendly, with unique business opportunities and a new creative energy, while honoring its industrial roots.





Water Works: 320-325 S. Broadway St.

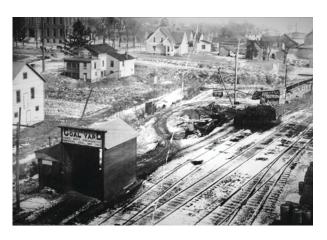
In 1897, the Village of Medina commissioned the construction of a water works plant in the Village just north of the railroad line on S. Broadway. The building was solid brick with a gabled roof and chimney. The Water Works provided water until 1911, when the building was sold to the Clement Concrete Company, which produced the concrete and brick for the Medina Farmers Exchange across the street.

The lot was bought by Medina Supply in 1958. The original building no longer remains.

Shaw Building: 119 W. Smith Rd.

F. E. Shaw's Machine Shop was built in 1895. By 1900, Medina Manufacturing Company operated the building to produce electrical flat irons and other items. From 1931 to 1973, it housed J&S Tractor Sales. On Memorial Day 1973, fire devastated the building. The owners of the Shaw building extensively remodeled to the structure's present appearance. It currently is Medina Transmission.





Medina Coal Company: 312 S. Court St.

The Medina Coal Company was once a landmark feature of South Town. The coal yard was first constructed in 1910 by O. A. Parsons, who decided to move his coal company into the heart of South Town.

The Company operated from 1910 to 1971 along the Akron-Canton & Youngstown Railroad. The lot was sold in 1972, and the buildings demolished.



