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POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR
Responsible
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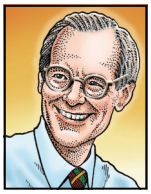
Gateway aesthetics

There are several entrances to Pottstown, but the most important one is South Hanover Street. Motorists entering Pottstown from westbound Route 422 or northbound Route 100 can come directly into Pottstown by crossing the Hanover Street bridge.

This gateway provides an important first impression to motorists coming into our downtown.

For decades, the Mrs. Smith's Pie Co. dominated the entrance. Visitors saw a large parking lot at the corner of Hanover Street and the Industrial Highway, with a yellow aluminum-sided industrial building in the background.

After the factory was sold and demolished for a housing development, planners insisted on federal-style townhouses with brick facades. All parking and garages were placed to the rear, where you couldn't see them.



Commentary by Thomas Hylton

A two-story brick building for retail and offices was to front the entire project along Hanover Street and the Industrial Highway near the Hanover Street bridge.

The plan was approved by the planning commission and Pottstown Council. But before the office building was constructed, borough staff insisted on placing a parking lot at the most prominent part of the intersection.

Why? Because of an underground run.

Pottstown has four underground runs throughout the borough, which are already covered by streets and scores of buildings. Starting from scratch, it would have been easy to design the building to accommodate the run.

But the staff simply overruled a plan already approved by Council.

On Thursday, we'll show how the developer is making the best of the situation with two new commercial buildings.

ORIGINAL MRS. SMITH'S REDEVELOPMENT PLAN called for a two-story mixed-used building with retail and offices that would front both Hanover Street and the Industrial Highway. After the plan was approved by Council, borough staff insisted on changing it because of an underground run located under part of the proposed building. Now a parking lot will face a prominent part of Hanover Street.

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