Today, nearly 20 years after the Mrs. Smith’s Pie Co. complex was demolished, two new mixed-use buildings have been completed on the most visible part of the site, forming a handsome entryway to Pottstown.

The buildings were constructed by Rockwell Development Group of Media, which also built 117 townhouses on the rest of the Mrs. Smith’s site.

When the pie company was operating, it used the land fronting South Hanover Street from the Industrial Highway to South Street as a parking lot, which did nothing to enhance the appearance of the town.

The new southern building, completed last year, has 2,800 square feet of commercial space, including a doughnut shop, on the first floor and four apartments on the second and third floors.

The northern building, completed earlier this year, houses the law offices of Ross, Quinn, and Ploppert. The firm paid $632,000 for the 8,000 square foot first floor. The second and third floors feature eight residential condominiums.

Stephen Ross, a principal in the firm, used to rent office space at the Security Trust building but needed more space for his growing firm, which today employs 25.

Ross has numerous enlarged historic photos hanging on the walls, including the area where the gateway buildings are now located.

Before Mrs. Smith’s first occupied the site in the 1920s, the gateway area was occupied by the Pennsylvania Railroad passenger station and the Potts Brothers Iron Works.

It’s fair to say this part of Pottstown looks better today than it ever did in the past.