

The History Walk: Business in St. Clair Shores, Then and Now

Pictured are 16 businesses from St. Clair Shores' history.

Some of these buildings still exist;
some of them are gone and have a newer building at the same location.

For more information on the businesses, ask inside the Library
or visit the Library's website www.scslibrary.org

Historic photographs courtesy of the
St. Clair Shores Historical Commission.

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St. Clair Shores Public Library
22500 Eleven Mile Road
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
586-771-9020
www.scslibrary.org
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Ritz Bar
Picture date: 1940s
23117 Harper Ave.



The Ritz existed as early as 1941--it's mentioned in that year's tax assessment for St. Clair Shores, under the proprietorship of Romaine Couck, a Belgian immigrant.

Now: Buffalo Wild Wings

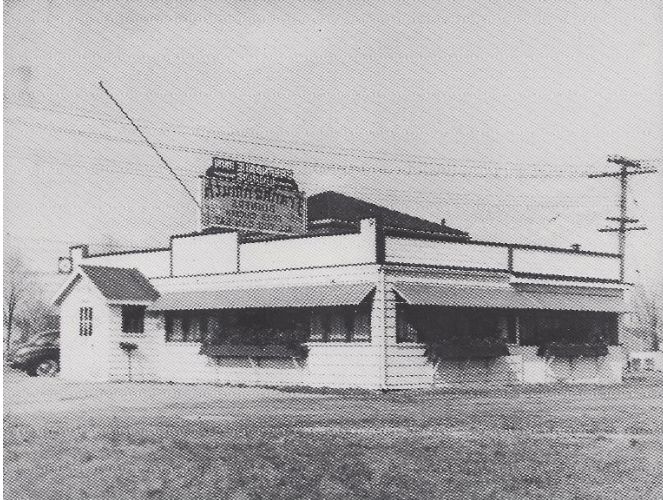
Moulin Rouge
Picture date: 1920s
23800 Harper Ave.



Supposedly one of the first carry-out restaurants in St. Clair Shores, the business started in the 1920s. By 1938, the owner was listed as Jewel E. Stockwell in a letter about liquor licensing, and the restaurant was called the Dutch Mill. The building was destroyed by fire in 1951.

Now: All In Marketing

Greendale Inn
Picture date: 1940s
27601 Harper Ave.



As early as 1936, the Greendale Inn operated as a "bar-b-q and beer garden". It was owned by Leo Delo and Al Witrick. Famous for its Frankenmuth-style chicken dinners, the restaurant closed about 1967. The building no longer exists.

Now: Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Shores Inn
Picture date: 1940s
23410 Greater Mack



Opened in 1937, the restaurant was owned by Joseph Belusich. By 1944, the owner was Ernest McCollom.

Now: Shores Inn

St. Clair Shores Municipal Building
Picture date: unknown
27701 Jefferson Ave.



Once the site of the municipal offices (starting in 1935), the building at various times housed the room that was the public library, as well as the police and fire departments.

Now: 40th District Court

Sid's Barbeque and Sid's Roadhouse
Picture date: 1940s
22385 Ten Mile Road



As early as the mid-1930s, there was a gas station and beer garden at this location. Known by several related names under the title of "Sid", Harry Suddards, an Englishman and former employee of the Dodge Brothers in Detroit, was the owner.

Now: Pat O'Brien's Tavern

Gardella's Inn
25010 Harper Ave.
Picture date: 1950s



In 1938, this location was occupied by the Pony Barn restaurant. By 1944 Henry Gardella was operating a beer garden here. Gardella was a Detroit resident who had immigrated from Genoa, Italy. By 1965, Gardella's had closed.

Now: Sabby's Lounge

Produce Stand
26800 Harper Ave.
Picture date: 1956



In a nod to St. Clair Shores' early agricultural heritage, this fruit and vegetable stand was located on Harper Avenue, north of Sunnydale.

Now: Chirco Title Agency, Inc.

Scheel's Gas Station
33601 Jefferson Ave.
Picture date: 1940s



The 1930 census lists Charles Scheel as the proprietor of a gas station; the address given in the 1944 tax assessment roll is just "Beverly and Jefferson". Scheel was born in Kitchener, Ontario.

Now: Tim's Bike Shop

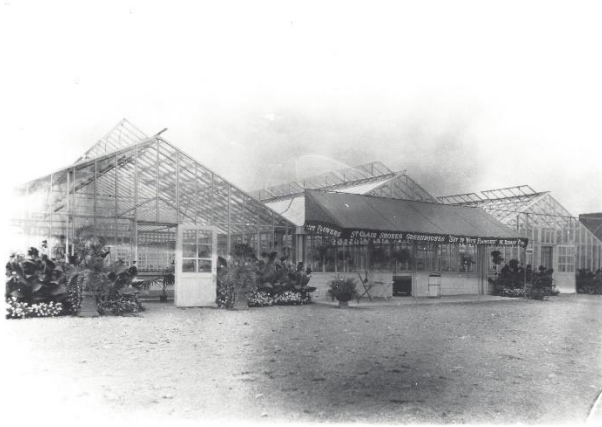
Bennett's Market
25113 Jefferson Ave.
Picture date: 1940s



John and Helen Bennett opened a store at this location about 1934, after moving from another Jefferson Avenue location. Bennett's Grocery served residents as a general store until the 1990s.

Now: Baffin Brewing Co.

St. Clair Shores Greenhouses
25511 Little Mack
Picture date: c. 1932



Founded in 1926, this nursery was started by Maurice and Mary Demey, Belgian immigrants. By 1940, Mary had been widowed and was running the business on her own.

Now: Eastside Eye Physicians

Krueger Machine Products
23418 Harper
Picture date: 1940s



Owned by George Krueger, the 1944 tax roll lists Krueger Machine Products as a “shop” at Harper and Finlan. The business operated until at least 1966.

Now: Banner Complete Auto Repair

E.C. White Fine Furniture
26717 Little Mack
Picture date: 1955



Built about 1870 for farmer Frederick Schroeder and his family, the building was a home until the 1930s, when it became the “Jefferson Social Club”, a restaurant and club. From 1953-1986 the building housed a furniture store. Since 2008, the building has hosted shops and other businesses.

Now: Ardmore Park Place

Kolf's Blue Star Bar
27626 Harper
Picture date: 1978



During the 1940s, beer gardens were popular in St. Clair Shores. One was operating at this spot in 1944. By 1953, it was known as “Randell’s Bar” and in 1978 it was Kolf’s Blue Star Bar.

Now: Butter Run Saloon

First State Bank
23400 Greater Mack
Picture date: 1952



Established in 1917, the First State Bank was in this building by 1937 and remained until at least the late 1960s. The bank is now at a different location on Greater Mack Ave.

Now: Party Adventure

Turner Summer Home
28404 Jefferson Ave.
Picture date: 1930s



Built in 1924 to serve as a German athletic club (a "Turnverein" which turned into "Turner Club"), it was also a stop on the interurban railway that ran through St. Clair Shores until the late 1920s. The building was purchased by the VFW in 1939. It was torn down in the 1950s.

Now: Walter F. Bruce VFW Post #1146

1. 33601 Jefferson
Tim's Bike Shop/Scheel's Gas Station

2. 28404 Jefferson
VFW/Turner Summer Home

3. 27701 Jefferson
St. Clair Shores Municipal Building/40th District Court

4. 27601 Harper
Valvoline Instant Oil Change/Greendale Inn

5. 27626 Harper
Butter Run Saloon/Kolf's Blue Star Bar

6. 26717 Little Mack
Ardmore Park Place/E. C. White Fine Furniture

7. 26800 Harper
Chirco Title Agency/Produce Stand

8. 25511 Little Mack
Eastside Eye Physicians/St. Clair Shores Greenhouses

9. 25113 Jefferson Ave.
Baffin Brewing Co./Bennett's Market

10. 22385 Ten Mile Rd.
Pat O'Briens Tavern/Sid's Barbeque and Roadhouse

11. 25010 Harper
Sabby's Lounge/Gardella's Inn

12. 23800 Harper
All In Marketing/Moulin Rouge

13. 23418 Harper
Banner Service Center/Krueger Machine Products

14. 23117 Harper
Buffalo Wild Wings/Ritz Bar

15. 23410 Greater Mack
Shores Inn

16. 23400 Greater Mack
Party Adventure/First State Bank

